

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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Case Information

Reference/Case ID		300018459	
Scheduled Monument	Cramond, Roman fort & civil settlement		
Index no	SM2526	Grid ref	NT 18900 76700
Date application validated	30 September 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Installation of orientation and directional signage - Cramond Heritage Trail		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the installation of orientation and directional signage, as part of Cramond Heritage Trail project, be granted with conditions.

2. Background

The Monument

The monument comprises a Roman fort and civilian settlement, partly excavated and displayed but predominantly surviving below ground under parkland and woodland. The monument is situated near the mouth of the River Almond, where it meets the Firth of Forth. It comprises a sub-rectangular fort defended by ramparts and ditches enclosing just under 5 acres, and associated civilian settlement. Excavations have shown that the fort was constructed around AD 140, during the Antonine period, with re-occupation later in the Antonine period, and again in the Severan period in the early third century AD. Some civilian re-use of the fort took place in the post-Severan period, up to the fourth century AD. The surviving portion comprises the NE and SE sectors of the fort, much of the remainder being beneath modern housing and roads. The civilian settlement, situated beyond the N and E ramparts of the fort, has produced indications of industrial as well as domestic activity, including evidence of a leather-working industry. The monument is of national importance as one of the few confirmed Severan period forts in Scotland.

The Proposal

The proposed works form part of a larger Cramond Heritage Trail. The trail will consist of 13 interpretation and orientation markers (7 boards, 3 finger posts and 3 waymark posts). Five of these markers will be located with the scheduled area at Cramond.

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Proposals for Cramond Heritage Trail have been developed by representatives of Cramond & Barnton Community Council, Cramond Association and Friends of the River Almond Walkway, with support from Edinburgh Council's Natural Heritage Service and Locality Team. The initiative is based on

- recognition of Cramond's outstanding historic interests - including sites of one of Scotland's earliest settlements, Roman Fort and Bathhouse, industrial heritage of the River Almond (mills, quarries), Cramond's historic Village and the Wartime history of Cramond Island
- recommendations within the 2003 Historic Cramond Conservation Management & Interpretation Plan commissioned by Edinburgh City Council
- information from the Cramond & River Almond Walkway: Visitor Survey 2014 (350 interviews). Over 80% of interviewees wanted more information on local history and wildlife and map-boards of paths, etc. Topics of interest were the River Almond's mills and wildlife (78% of interviewees wanting more information), Roman history (65%), Cramond Island (60%), walking/cycling routes (58%) and Cramond Village (55%).

Consequently, the Interpretation Group developed the Cramond and River Almond Walkway: Orientation & Interpretation Strategy, a key component of which is the Cramond Heritage Trail. This Trail will lead visitors around and interpret the principal heritage sites (e.g. Mesolithic settlement site, Fair-a-Far Mill, Cramond Waterfront). The Strategy and concept of a Heritage Trail have received statements of support in principle from local community groups, local councillors, City of Edinburgh Council (Parks & Greenspace Manager), Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Cramond Primary School and other local groups.

Orientation and interpretation signs will comprise -

- Heritage Trail orientation boards - including a Trail map and initial visitor information to be located at principal visitor 'entrance' points. The information will enhance awareness of the Trail, sites and features of interest and visitor amenities (e.g. cafes, toilets)
- interpretation boards - these will enhance visitors' appreciation and understanding of features of social, industrial and natural heritage interest
- fingerposts - these will assist visitors to follow the Trail
- waymark posts - these will assist visitors to follow the Trail
- woodland walks orientation board - this will feature a map of paths and specimen trees of interest in the Kirk Cramond woodlands.

Pre-application discussions

HES has since undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the works, and this application accords with the outcome of these discussions.



3. Proposals

Consented works - Installation of orientation and directional signage, as part of Cramond Heritage Trail project.

The proposals comprise:

- The Installation of one Heritage Trail Orientation Board (A2 in the Design Statement). The support for the board will require the excavation of two pits 600mmx600mm by 600mm deep, the other potential option is a paved area to support the Board. With the paved option the Kerbing will not exceed a depth of 250mm below the existing road surface.
- The Installation of one Heritage Trail Directional Fingerpost (C2 in the Design Statement). The support for the fingerpost will require excavation of a pit 600mmx600mm by 600mm deep.
- The Installation of two Heritage Trail Waymark Posts (D2 and D3 in the Design Statement). The support for these fingerposts will require the excavation of a pit 600mmx600mm by 600mm deep for each of them.
- The Installation of one Woodlands Walks Orientation Board (E in the Design Statement). The support for the board will require the excavation of two pits 600mmx600mm by 600mm deep.

In total the works may be summarised as the addition of 5 interpretation and orientation signs/boards and the 7 excavated pits required for their supports. The application includes a written scheme of investigation for the excavation of the 7 pits.

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 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.

3.18. 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.

3.19. Extensive intervention will only be allowed where it is clearly necessary to secure the longer-term preservation of the monument, or where it will clearly generate public benefits of national importance which outweigh the impact on the national cultural significance of the monument. Such public benefits could come from, for example, interventions which make public access to scheduled monuments easier, or assist public understanding, or will produce economic benefits once the works are completed.

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 installation of 5 interpretation boards/posts with the scheduled area at Cramond. This work comprises 7 holes at 600mm x 600mm by 600mm in depth to be excavated to provide foundations for the supports for the boards and posts.

There will be a physical impact on the monument through the digging of a series of holes within the scheduled area, however the physical impact of these works on the monument will be likely be comparatively minor as it is within areas of ground which have seen previous disturbance and where the topsoil is of significant depth. Therefore the probable impact of these works on the cultural significance of the monument is low, as deposits of cultural significance are likely to have already have been disturbed. Works in this area, therefore are likely to have less impact than elsewhere within the scheduled area.

The digging of 7 holes for the interpretation boards and posts will primarily be in previously disturbed ground, the Written Scheme of Investigations has been provided which meets industry standards, the excavation of the 7 pits will be monitored by an experienced archaeologist.

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

No protected species and places identified. See assessment.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works are part of the larger Cramond and River Almond Walkway: Orientation & Interpretation Strategy. The works are a key component of the Cramond Heritage Trail, the core element of the larger strategy. This Trail will lead to an enhanced visitor experience. The works are accompanied by a thorough design statement and written scheme of investigation. The locations chosen for the interpretation boards and orientation posts is within ground that has been previously disturbed and unlikely to impact on previously undisturbed archaeological deposits. The scope of the works is minimal, and therefore does not conflict with 3.16 of the policy statement.

The proposed works are well planned and designed and have identified funding and such comply with 3.20 of the policy statement. The proposed works are accompanied by

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a WSI that covers the excavation of the 7 holes for the installation of interpretation boards and orientation posts. However to comply with 3.22 of the policy statement it has been necessary to condition the requirement for notification if significant archaeological deposits are encountered.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, 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, subject to the condition detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. 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.

Reason: to ensure that any impacts on archaeological structures and deposits are minimised and that any significant discoveries that are made during excavation are recorded adequately and can be dealt with appropriately in the defined timescale.

8. Approval

Case officer	James Bruhn	Date	24 November 2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	24 November 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Method Statement
- Location & Design Statement
- Written Scheme of Investigation