



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018655		
Scheduled Monument	March Burn to Little Clyde, Roman road		
Index no	SM3348	Grid ref	NT 01835 14208
Date application validated	31 October 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Timber harvesting, felling, extraction and stacked within buffer zone.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for timber harvesting, felling, extraction and temporarily stacking of timber within the scheduled area be granted.

2. Background

The monument is part of the Roman road of probable Antonine date that leads from Annandale into Clydesdale, much of which is scheduled. The monument formed the major routeway for Roman armies and indigenous peoples from the north of England into southwest Scotland in the period. It may have been used in the medieval period, and was then used as a drove route in the 18th century. The road was scheduled in 1974, before extensive sections of the road in upper Annandale and upper Clydesdale were afforested with commercial plantation woodland. The scheduling divided the road into sections that conform to then-extant political boundaries. The specific scheduling under discussion runs from the Dumfries & Galloway – South Lanarkshire local authority boundaries on the A701 to the Roman camp at Beattock Summit, beside the M74.

The particular section of the road in which these works are located lies in a sitka spruce plantation which lies on the edge of a forest road. The Roman road at this point is deeply buried under the modern surfaces of successive forest tracks, and no flanking ditches or quarry pits are visible in either the road verge or in the deep-ploughed ground of the plantation. It is presumed that such features were largely removed during the planting operations undertaken in the mid 1970s.

The scheduled area covers a width of between 50m and 55m, based on the centreline of the Roman road as mapped on mid 20th-century OS maps. This centreline is generally followed by that of the forest road, which is the case here. A



width of about 20m of the northern parts of the scheduled area lies within the plantation woodland, along a length of the road approximately 255m long.

The monument is of national importance because its route (and potentially its buried remains in this section of the road) reveals the Roman network of communications that supported its attempted conquest of southern Scotland in the second century AD, and subsequent attempts to maintain its control.

This application relates to the forest road and the adjacent plantation. It is for felling works within the scheduled area, and will include extraction of the timber after temporary stacking within the scheduled area. It has been submitted by Fountains Forestry as land managers for the site.

The application is accompanied by a map showing the areas of felling, stacking and extraction routes, as well as a works method statement and an ecology survey.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

- felling of trees within the scheduled area, by harvesters initially working from the forest road and then moving into the plantation via adjacent unscheduled ground
- the creation of an extraction route on the southern edge of the scheduled area for a length of approximately 250m, using brash matting
- the creation of a temporary stacking area on deep-ploughed land at the edge of the scheduled area

Consented works – timber harvesting, felling, extraction and temporarily stacking of timber within the scheduled area. The trees within the plantation are now suitable for felling, and the forest road is the only practical access for vehicles to the area. The harvester will initially work from the surface of the forest road, reaching in to process the trees and stack them outside the scheduled area. Once the edge of the plantation/scheduled area is cleared of trees, a brash mat will be laid down on the outer edge of the scheduled area. Harvesters will then enter the plantation at a location to the west where the Roman road and the forest road deviate (outwith the scheduled area), and then traverse the brash mat to fell the remainder of the trees in the scheduled area and in the plantation beyond. The brash mat will run across the ploughing ridges and thus reduce the likely ground pressure exerted by the vehicles. Processed timber will then be stacked beside the forest road on ground that has already been disturbed during deep ploughing for the planting of timber and the construction of the forest road, prior to its hoisting onto timber lorries parked on the forest road. The matting will then be carefully removed. Replanting will then take place 20m beyond the edge of the scheduled area



Timescales and personnel - The work will be undertaken by the end of the financial year, by contractors working to guidance from the applicant. The presence and location of the scheduled area will be briefed to all site personnel.

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

3.16. 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.

None.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the harvesting, felling, extraction and temporarily stacking of timber within the scheduled area. This is intended to exploit the commercial potential of the timber crop, and to facilitate replanting.

Physical impact

The physical impact of the proposed works on the scheduled area would be negligible. While very well preserved sections of the road exist within 1km of this section, this particular point on the Roman road has no visible features predating the late 20th century. The road itself is buried by probably 1m to 1.5m of constructed forest road, and the flanking ditches have been either deeply buried or obliterated by deep ploughing. Investigation of the area within the plantation indicates that there are no visible quarry pits flanking the road. The area to the south of the forest road where timber would be stacked has also been partly deep ploughed and partly buried by the



forest road makeup. The works do not have the potential to physically impact on these remains.

Impact on cultural significance

These features constitute much of the cultural significance of the scheduled monument. This section lies between two sections (to the immediate west and east) in forest rides where elements of the Roman road are better preserved, and the original cambered surface can be perceived below grass and vegetation. Therefore, the cultural significance of this part of the monument is also partly exhibited by the ability to understand the overall Roman route in its landscape context, rather than solely in the physical remains.

The proposed works will not impact on the physical remains or their cultural significance, and the replanting that will occur after the felling works will be outwith the scheduled area and provide a further buffer of 20m of unplanted space. This would allow a greater understanding and appreciation of the topography and immediate landscape context of the Roman road in this section, and would represent a positive impact on the cultural significance of the monument.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely – see Protected Species and Places 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, comprising harvesting, felling, extraction and temporarily stacking of timber within the scheduled area, will not impact upon the monument's cultural significance and so do not conflict with paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement.

Condition 1 is to ensure that a works timetable including intended completion date is supplied to HES. This would enable a site visit to take place during the works or immediately after completion, so that compliance can be determined.

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.



It is recommended that consent is **granted subject to the condition detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. At least two weeks prior to any works commencing on site, a project timetable, including an intended completion date, shall be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland. Any alterations to this timetable shall also be notified to Historic Environment Scotland in advance.

Reason: to ensure that Historic Environment Scotland have the opportunity to visit and inspect the works in progress.

8. Approval

Case officer	John Malcolm	Date	19 December 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	20 December 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Preliminary ecology Survey FM-ESS-01
- Work Method Statement MS-22009-2016-001
- Schedule Monument Harvesting Plan