

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018672		
Scheduled Monument	Cramond, Roman fort & civil settlement		
Index no	SM2526	Grid ref	NT 18900 76700
Date application validated	02 November 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Removal of trees and vegetation		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for removal of trees and vegetation be granted.

2. Background

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.

The scheduled area comprises the remains described above and areas around them within which related material may be expected to be found. It is irregular in shape, with maximum overall dimensions of 425m NW-SE by 435m NE-SW. Surfaces and above ground elements of modern walls, field boundaries, paths, roads and car parking areas are excluded from the scheduling, as are all upstanding modern buildings and their immediate environs. In particular, exclusions include Cramond House and Tower, Cramond Church, Manse, Church Hall and burial ground and surrounding land, all as marked in red on the accompanying map extract.

The relevance of the complex to the Roman occupation of the south and east of Scotland and to military campaigns from at least 140s AD to after 212AD, together with its richness, ensure this monuments high national importance.

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It is works to the trees and any surface vegetation that this application relates to. The application is for Crown cleaning, deadwood removal, ivy removal and tree and scrub removal within the scheduled area. It has been submitted by City of Edinburgh Council.

The application is accompanied by a location plan, a methodology, works orders and condition surveys of the trees and walls (excluded from the scheduling) that lie within the scheduling of Cramond Roman Fort and Civil Settlement.

HES Heritage Management Directorate undertook pre-application discussions in 2015 with the applicant regarding the scope of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

- Crown cleaning
- Section felling of 12 trees (above 10 cm diameter)
- Deadwood removal
- Ivy removal
- Scrub removal

Consented works – the removal of trees by section felling and removal of vegetation.

These works will comprise the removal of deadwood overhanging the roadsides with a cherry picker, the removal of surface vegetation and ivy and the section felling of larger trees. The cut timber/vegetation will be removed from the site by cutting into easily transportable pieces, rather than by dragging. No burning of brash will be carried out in the scheduled area.

Aims – These works are part of wider arboricultural and improvement works being undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Council to remove trees and vegetation that may prove hazardous to the public.

Timetable - The works will be likely be undertaken in early 2017

Personnel - the works will be carried out by the City of Edinburgh's Forestry Department.

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.

Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

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.

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b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the section felling of trees and removal of vegetation including overhanging deadwood. This is intended to tidy and stabilise trees and vegetation in a public green space.

The physical impact of the proposed works on the monument would be negligible and the impact on its cultural significance minor. The removal of 12 trees, deadwood clearing, ivy removal and crown cleaning will be beneficial to the long term preservation of the monument.

The works would not affect the cultural significance of the monument.

With the exception of the removal of vegetation, the site would be returned to its former state at the end of the proposed work.

The application has been accompanied by a detailed plan of works that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology.

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 works, comprising tree felling and removal of scrub, deadwood and ivy 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. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works have been proposed in order to ensure the long term preservation of the monument and so are 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

Case officer	Hazel Johnson	Date	15 December 2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	16 December 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Methodology of required works Ref: Work Specs Methodology
- Works for orders and associated maps for prescribed tree works Ref: 2671 and 3032 (4 x PDFs)
- Maps detailing location of tree works including small diameter (<10cm) ivy and scrub removal Ref: Cramond SAM Tree Work Map North and South
- Maps detailing location of desired and formal path requiring encroaching vegetation removal Ref: Cramond and Woodland Access North and South PDF
- Condition survey of walls, Cramond Walled Garden Ref: 1091 Cramond Walled Garden Park wall surveys 21_05_15
- Standard Methodology for brash and small diameter removal Ref: Tree works on scheduled monuments