

## Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

It is important that you read the accompanying guidance notes as incorrect completion will delay the processing of your application. You can complete and submit this form by email ([scheduledmonumentconsent@hes.scot](mailto:scheduledmonumentconsent@hes.scot)) or by post to Heritage Management Business Support, Historic Environment Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH.

### 1 Applicant name and address

<b>Title</b>	Mr	<b>First Name</b>	David	<b>Surname</b>	Anderson
<b>Company / Organisation</b>	RSPB Scotland				
<b>Building No / Name</b>	Bothkennar Research Station				
<b>Street</b>	Haughs of Airth				
<b>Town / City</b>					
<b>County / Region</b>	Falkirk				
<b>Postcode</b>	FK2 8PP				

### 2 Monument to which application applies

<b>Index no</b>	SM90036	<b>Name</b>	Blackness Castle
<b>Local Authority</b>	West Lothian	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NT 05445 79985
<b>Description of location of land</b>	Amenity grassland surrounding Blackness Castle		

### 3 Pre-application discussions

<b>Have you undertaken pre-application discussions with Historic Environment Scotland? (If yes, please give details below)</b>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
I have attended site visits with the site manager, and attended meetings in Edinburgh with the Natural Resources Advisor and the district architect to discuss the project.		

### 4 Summary of proposed works (max 20 words)

Plant wildflower meadows and hedgerow in the area surrounding Blackness Castle
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### 5 Description of proposed works

Much of the area around Blackness Castle is dominated by amenity grassland which, while providing important space for people, is of little value to wildlife. We propose that 3 wildflower plots, totalling over 1ha, are planted within this amenity grassland area to create a habitat with an abundance of nectar and pollen that will benefit local wildlife and provide a visual spectacle for visitors during the summer months. RSPB would provide all the seed and equipment to create the meadows, and undertake the work with contractors to create the meadows.
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The seed mix for the areas will be a mixture of native grasses and flowers, the exact mix of species will be selected after discussion with local suppliers. The process for creating the meadow will be as follows;

- Spray the area with appropriate weed killer to kill off existing species that would out-compete the newly planted grasses and wildflowers
- Rotovate the area to a depth of 15-20cm to create a fine seed bed
- Spread the seed at a rate of 3g per m<sup>2</sup>
- The ground should then be rolled to enable contact of seed with the soil.

We also propose the planting of a hedgerow in one area of the grounds to link up existing scrub habitat. Hedgerows are vitally important for wildlife, providing important refuge and shelter areas, as well as food for many species of bird. Furthermore they can link disparate habitats, providing wildlife corridors through a landscape. Unfortunately, many areas of hedgerow have been lost due to farming intensification leading to bigger fields and the loss of boundary features. It is therefore important to identify new areas for hedgerows which could benefit local wildlife. At Blackness Castle there is an opportunity to create a new hedgerow on the southern part of the site, along the length of an existing fence line, linking up existing scrub habitat.

To create the hedgerow the following steps would be taken;

- Strim back any existing vegetation
- Lay out a weed suppressant membrane with 3 holes every metre cut in to it for the plants
- Holes for the plants would be dug to 10-15cm
- Plants would be planted in a double row with 50cm between each row.
- Canes and herbivore guards would be attached to plants to protect them from damage.

The selection of hedgerow plants would be based on the bird survey that was undertaken at Blackness last year to ensure the greatest benefit for local species. It is likely the plants will include hawthorn, blackthorn, honeysuckle, dog rose and guelder rose amongst others. The planting work could be undertaken by volunteers.

<b>6 List of plans, drawings and other documents accompanying application (continue on separate sheet if necessary)</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Document emailed</b>	<b>Document posted</b>
1.	Habitat Enhancement Proposal Report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Wildflower meadow proposal map		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Hedgerow proposal map		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**7****Nature Conservation – Protected Places and Species****Will the proposed works affect any of the following:****Yes      No**

- |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Protection Areas            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Areas of Conservation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | European Protected Species          |

**If Yes, please give details below****8****Other information relevant to application**

This work would form part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, of which Historic Environment Scotland is a partner.

**9****Declaration**

- I hereby apply for scheduled monument consent for the works described in this application and shown on the accompanying plans and drawings.
- I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true and accurate.

<b>Name</b>	David Anderson	<b>Date</b>	13/12/16
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<b>On behalf of</b>	RSPB Scotland
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Where an application is being dealt with by an agent to whom correspondence should be sent, state the:-

<b>Name of Agent</b>		<b>Tel No</b>	
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<b>Address</b>	
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<b>Post Code</b>	
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