

New Abbey Corn Mill

Proposed Archaeological Mitigation

Hedge and road-edge installation (HGV protection measures)

Introduction

This assessment outlines the archaeological issues associated with the proposed installation of a line of boulders along the W (roadside) edge of the property at New Abbey Corn Mill, to mitigate issues caused by heavy goods vehicles operating close to the site boundary. The proposed new works include the removal of part of the existing hedge, introduction of a bank of imported soil into which new hedge planting (to match existing) will be set, and the installation of a series of boulders along the road edge. These boulders may require to be set in a concrete foundation, involving a small amount of excavation into the existing ground surface. It is possible that the proposed works may impact upon archaeological levels.

Historical background

The property at New Abbey Corn Mill comprises the corn mill and its associated water works, along with the mill pond and lade, all fed from Loch Kindar. The mill is of the lowland type of water-powered grain mill that developed across southern Scotland from the late 18th century. Mills such as this ground oatmeal, other types of grain, beans and pease, for both human and animal consumption. This medium-sized mill was built in the late 18th century and substantially modified in the mid 19th century. It is thought likely to have replaced a monastic mill in the same vicinity.

Archaeological background

Small-scale investigations have taken place around the mill during the replacement of services. These watching briefs have not produced significant results, but have highlighted the good survival of archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the mill, which could contribute to a better understanding of its lengthy use and development.

Proposed archaeological mitigation

There is a possibility that the ground-breaking work involved in establishing a line of boulders along the road edge will impact on archaeological deposits. For this reason we propose that all excavations are monitored by an archaeologist.

Trenches should be hand excavated to the required depth or to the top of the first archaeological layer, whichever is shallower. The excavations will be monitored by Kirkdale Archaeology under the terms of the HES Archaeology Call-off Contract. If significant archaeological deposits are encountered, excavation will stop and the findings will be recorded. Kirkdale will report back to the HES Cultural Resources

Advisor, who will discuss the implications of this with the District Architect, Interpretation Manager and Heritage Management.

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