



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018812		
Scheduled Monument	Dumbarton Castle		
Index no	SM90107	Grid ref	NS 39800 74400
Date application validated	07 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Replacement of existing gully at base of stone channelled burnlet to rear of Governor's House		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for replacement of existing drainage gully with two gullies be granted with one condition.

2. Background

The monument is a prominent volcanic plug of basalt at the mouth of the River Leven on the north bank of the Firth of Clyde used as a fortification in the early and later medieval periods. Elements of the medieval castle survive within a Georgian fort.

The early medieval fort is represented by buried archaeological evidence and by two carved stones. It has been associated with an royal centre known as Alduith and described by Bede as a political centre of the Britons. The later medieval castle is represented by several surviving structures, including the Wallace Tower, the Portcullis Arch and the Guard House. Surviving elements of the Georgian fortress includes the Governor's House, the French Prison, the Magazine, curtain walls and gun-batteries.

Dumbarton Rock is a Property in Care and has one of the longest recorded histories as a stronghold in Britain. Each phase of use has resulted in nationally important remains and the combination of several phases at an iconic and prominent location can be compared to other centres such as Edinburgh and Stirling.

It is to the rear of the Governor's House, which formed an important part of the 18th Century Georgian fort that this application relates. The application is for the replacement of an existing drainage gully with two gullies in order to cope with wet periods. It has



been submitted by Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Directorate and has been discussed with Historic Environment Scotland Heritage Directorate in advance.

The application is accompanied by a drawing showing proposed works and an Archaeological Assessment prepared by a HES Cultural Resources Advisor.

3. Proposals

Replacement of an existing drainage gully at the bottom of a stone channelled drain to the rear of the Governor's House. This would replace the existing gully with two gullies to alleviate flooding during wet periods.

The existing granolithic concrete slab gully would be carefully dug up in dry weather.

Two new gully pots with silt straps would be installed and connected to existing drains. The gullies would be bedded in new concrete surrounds and stone slabs installed as a gully apron. The maximum depth of excavation would be 860mm.

The proposal has been accompanied by an archaeological assessment. This concludes that the work is likely to be within ground previously disturbed by the existing drain but that there is some chance of sensitive archaeological deposits being exposed, particularly in section. The Assessment proposes that all excavation is by hand and monitored by an archaeologist. If any sensitive remains were exposed the scope of excavation and recording would be discussed with HES Cultural Resources Team and Heritage.

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

3.17. 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.

b) Assessment

The works are being proposed so that existing drainage at the monument is upgraded to be able to cope with increasing levels of rainfall. This is required to prevent flooding to the rear of the Governor's House.

The work would dig up and remove an existing drain that is modern in date and does not contribute to the monument's significance. The excavations are likely to only disturb ground that was disturbed when the modern drainage system was installed. However, there is some chance that earlier deposits may be exposed in the sides of former cuts, or redeposited artefacts may be encountered. Archaeological monitoring of the excavations is proposed and if sensitive remains were encountered the scope of recording and excavation would be discussed and agreed with HES Cultural Resources and Casework. In this event Casework could agree a method that preserved such sensitive remains in situ. A full methodology or WSI for archaeological monitoring has not been included in the application documents.

Two new drainage gully pots with silt traps would be installed in the same area as the old drain and connected to the existing gully and drain. The only visual change associated with these new structures would be new grates and paving, which would not have a substantive effect on the visual appearance of the monument.

It is concluded that, with archaeological monitoring as mitigation in place, the works should have no substantive effect on the cultural significance of the monument. It is recommended that a condition is applied requiring submission and approval of a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) for the archaeological monitoring to ensure this is undertaken to appropriate professional standards and that appropriate control mechanisms are in place in the unlikely event of sensitive archaeological remains being exposed.



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

The work is not predicted to have any significant impacts on protected species because of its nature. Dumbarton Rock is a SSSI and SNH have been consulted during the application process.

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 are proposed to prevent flooding at the monument and so are justified in accordance with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.17 of the policy statement. The works, comprising replacement of an existing drain, would be done to elements of the monument in such a way that they would have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraph 3.18 of the policy statement.

However, the application includes a provision for archaeological monitoring but no WSI setting out the methodology for that work. A condition requiring this to be submitted and agreed with Casework prior to the works commencing is considered necessary in order to ensure this is undertaken in line with current professional standards.

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. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area [indicated on the plan supplied with the scheduled monument consent application] until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) / project design and has had this WSI approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Directorate. This should detail how works will be undertaken, recorded, monitored and reported on, including an outline of how the works will be controlled to prevent impacts upon any in situ archaeological deposits or structures encountered. This scheme of works shall be fully



implemented during the course of the approved development.

Reason: to ensure that any impacts in archaeological structures and/or deposits is minimised and that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

8. Approval

Case officer	Simon Stronach	Date	19 January 2017
Approved by	John Raven	Date	20 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Proposals Drawing 193-107-535
- Dumbarton Castle: Proposed Archaeological Mitigation (HES Cultural Resources Advisor)