

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300019129		
Scheduled Monument	Dundonald Castle		
Index no	SM90112	Grid ref	NS 36300 34500
Date application validated	13 February 2017		
Summary of proposed works	Geophysical Survey		

1. Summary recommendation

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

2. Background

Dundonald Castle is of largely 14th century date and lies on a natural knoll where there is evidence for other medieval and earlier castles and defenses. It is nationally significant due to its longevity of occupation and the presence of a well-preserved medieval castle. It is also associated with important historical figures such as King Robert II. The scheduling includes the visible remains of the castle and the entirety of the knoll on which it sits.

The current proposed programme of geophysics is part of a wider project of archaeological research taking place at the site in partnership with the Friends of Dundonald Castle.

3. Proposals

Resistance, Gradiometer, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey.

Prior to the survey itself, geo-referenced 20m grids will be established across the site. Survey will then be undertaken in selected areas where there is little detailed

archeological information. Resistance, Gradiometer, and GPR would be undertaken. The works would be done by Rose Geophysics over a number of days in February or March 2017.

The survey is intended to provide information on areas of the site where the archeology is not well understood and to increase understanding of the buried remains across the site. This is primarily intended to inform future phases of archeological fieldwork and research into the castle.

4. Representations received

No third party representations have been 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 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors.

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.

b) Assessment

As non-invasive surveys, the works will have no impact upon the cultural significance of the monument. The application is accompanied by a well-thought out and comprehensive supporting document and the work will be undertaken by an appropriate contractor.

The survey has the potential to inform us about the construction and use of the castle and may therefore have the potential to enhance its cultural significance. It is being undertaken in partnership with stakeholders in the local community.



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

Due to the nature of the works there should be no impact on protected species and places.

d) Conclusion

The proposals are supported by a satisfactory research document and project design and are non-invasive. The works are well-considered, will be undertaken by an appropriate contractor, and will be adequately reported. They should have no lasting impact on the monument or its cultural significance and do not, therefore, conflict with paragraph 3.16 of the Policy Statement.

6. Recommended decision

The works are well-considered, will be undertaken by an appropriate contractor, and will be adequately reported.

I recommend consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Kevin Grant	Date	15 February 2017
Approved by	John Raven	Date	15 February 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Survey Methodology
- Plan showing area of survey
- Document outlining landowners permission