HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Scheduled Monument Consent
Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300021006

Scheduled Monument	St Andrews Cathedral and Priory and adjacent ecclesiastical remains		
Index no	SM13322	**Grid ref**	NO 51300 16700

Date application validated	31 May 2017
Summary of proposed works	Interment of ashes and inscription on headstone

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that the application should be **granted.**

2. Background

The monument comprises the remains of the cathedral and Augustinian priory of St Andrews, its precinct and the remains of the collegiate church of St Mary, Kirkheugh.

From an early monastic establishment in the mid-8th century, St Andrew grew in importance to become the administrative centre of the Church in Scotland. The scale and grandeur of its buildings reflected this status. The cathedral was of particular note as it held relics of St Andrew which drew thousands of pilgrims to the site in the medieval period. The site fell into ruin after the Reformation, but substantial elements of the cathedral and priory buildings still survive. The walls of the precinct are the best surviving example of their type in Scotland.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and follows the boundary of the cathedral precinct plus an area between the precinct wall and the clifftop along the shore to incorporate the remains of St Mary of the Rock, Kirkheugh. The scheduling designation contains a number of exclusions to ensure that only those areas of archaeological importance are designated: one that may apply in this case is the exclusion of the above-ground elements of all structures, fixtures and street furniture built after 1950.

The monument is of national importance as one of the earliest Christian foundations in Scotland, the site of the main administrative centre of the Scottish church from at least the 10th century to the Reformation, and because of the great scale and outstandingly high quality of its buildings. The monument contributes significantly to our understanding of the architecture, character, layout and economy of Scotland's medieval monasteries and cathedrals.

This application relates to an existing family burial plot and later 19th century memorial within the cemetery surrounding St Andrews Cathedral. The memorial has a pointed arch over a pink granite infill panel bearing inscriptions. Additional panels of granite have been provided for further inscriptions to the centre and left of the plinth at the base. The plot and memorial lie east-southeast of the cathedral and east-northeast of St Rule's Tower. The memorial adjoins the inner face of the precinct wall. The application is for the interment of ashes and addition of an inscription to the memorial.

The application is accompanied by a location plan showing the position of the lair and by photographs of the lair. The applicant has had pre-application discussion with the HES Factoring section who operate as the burial authority in this area.

3. Proposals

Interment of ashes and inscription on headstone

Macgregors Funeral Directors in St Andrews will dig up the ground and inter the casket of ashes. They will also arrange for the inscription on the headstone.

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

3.14. 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.

There are no other policy or legislative considerations.

b) Assessment

The proposed works are associated with interment of ashes in an existing family plot and the addition of an inscription to a memorial.

Preparation of lairs at the Cathedral Burial Ground for interment of ashes involves excavation of a hole measuring about 32cm by 32cm down to a depth of 45-60cm. The physical impact of the proposed works would involve very limited ground disturbance, amounting to a tiny fraction of 1% of the total area of the monument. The area affected is assumed already to have been disturbed by the creation and reuse of the grave itself in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The addition of an inscription to the Morrison memorial would also involve a very limited intervention. The monument dates from the later 19th century and is not a major

component of the monument's cultural significance. It has already been modified to provide additional granite panels for inscriptions low down on the plinth; the granite panel to the bottom left carries an inscpription to Margery Morrison who died in 1990, and there is space beneath that inscription.

Overall, the physical impact of the proposed works on the monument and its cultural significance should, therefore, be negligible. No scheme for archaeological mitigation has been provided as part of this application. However, given the previously disturbed nature of the area to be affected, archaeological works are not considered necessary in this case.

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

Bats are known to occupy St Rule's Tower, but the very small scale works proposed will have no impact on them.

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 would involve the excavation of a small hole for the interment of ashes and addition of an inscription to a later 19th century memorial that has been modified down to the 1990s. They would be conducted within an existing burial lair in the cemetery at St Andrews Cathedral. It is concluded that the works would result in minimal disturbance to the monument and would have no material effect on the overall cultural significance of the monument. The works are, therefore, considered consistent with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy Statement.

The works would be co-ordinated by an established funeral directors with experience of operating in this burial ground. They would be conducted with the approval of the burial authority. The works can be regarded as carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned, consistent with paragraph 3.20 of the Policy Statement.

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	Richard Heawood	**Date**	19 June 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	**Date**	21 June 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location plan showing position of lair
- Photographs of lair