HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Metal and Mineral Detecting Consent
Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300047474

Scheduled Monument	Kinneil, church and graveyard		
Index no	SM4970	**Grid ref**	NS 98091 80578

Date of application	13 November 2020
Summary of proposed works	Gradiometer Survey

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent for geophysical survey at Kinneil Church and Graveyard be granted.

2. Background

The application is for geophysical survey at Kinneil Church and Graveyard. It is being proposed to explore the line of the Antonine Wall and its associated fortlet in this area. It follows a previous application (300047028) and pre-application advice. It has been submitted by the Historic Environment Scotland Survey and Recording Team. It is accompanied by a project design, and a survey methodology document containing location map, survey plan, and owner permission.

The monument is the ruins of a church standing 90m west of Kinneil House. The western gable stands to its full height, topped by a bellcote, but the other walls stand no more than 1m high. The building consisted of a nave, with a rectangular chancel, to which a transept or aisle was later added on the south. The floor level inside is lower than ground level and the pavement of the nave is composed of tombslabs collected from the surrounding graveyard. The graveyard contains other stones, mostly of 17th-century date. The scheduled area includes the graveyard and church, an area some 69m on the north-north-west, 37.5m on the east-north-east, 16m on the east-south-east, about 57m on the south-south-east and about 37.5m on the west-south-west.

The monument is of national importance because of its associations with the history of the early church in Scotland, as recorded in the Life of St Serf and in Bede's Ecclesiastical History; excavation of the site has potential for shedding light on an important period in Scotland's ecclesiastical history. The monument is also of national importance for illustrating the development of a parish church building from the middle ages to 1669, when it was converted into a private chapel, and as the last visible vestige of the village of Kinneil, which disappeared by 1691.

The application relates to an irregular half of the western part of the scheduled monument, not extending into the church ruins, as shown on the attached plan.

3. Proposals

- Gradiometer survey

The proposed works would comprise gradiometer survey using a hand-propelled cart-mounted MXPDA system, walking parallel, north-south traverses 2.5m apart. There is no requirement for a set grid, as the system software maps the position, and thus there is no need for any ground disturbance.

The proposed works would be undertaken by the Historic Environment Scotland Survey and Recording Team, as soon as consent is granted.

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 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors.

Scheduled Monument Consents Policy

Metal and Mineral Detecting Consent Policy Aim

Detecting metals or minerals in protected places should only be undertaken in an appropriate manner. The methods should ensure information gained increases our understanding of the cultural significance of the monument and does not place the preservation of the monument, its cultural significance or associated artefacts at risk.

Metal and Mineral Detecting Consent Policy 1

Proposals for detecting metals or minerals in protected places should be carefully considered, based on good authority, and properly planned and executed.

Where the use of devices for detecting metals or minerals is proposed, it should:

- be supported by an appropriate research design, methodology and reporting strategy, and;
- be undertaken by appropriately skilled and competent personnel with a satisfactory record of the completion, archiving and publication of projects.

Metal and Mineral Detecting Consent Policy 2

The information gained from metal and mineral detecting should not place the preservation of the monument, its cultural significance or artefacts at risk.

Recovery of objects of archaeological or historical interest will only be permitted where the work forms part of a wider research strategy and provision is made for the conservation and reporting of finds.

All applications for the removal of objects will be assessed in line with the policies outlined above for Scheduled Monument Consent.

Metal detecting should not place archaeological deposits or artefacts at risk (for example, risks might come from revealing the locations of artefacts that may have high monetary or cultural value).

b) Assessment

The proposed survey would address ScARF research questions relating to the Antonine Wall. It is carefully considered, based on good authority and properly planned. The research design, methodology and reporting strategy are appropriate and the personnel are experienced. The information that it should provide will not put the monument at risk; the monument is widely know as of national importance. No archaeological finds would be recovered.

There is no need for the temporary insertion of survey pegs and canes and the proposed works would therefore not have any aesthetic impact on the monument. It is, therefore, concluded that the works would maintain the cultural significance of the monument.

The application is therefore considered compliant with Metal and Mineral Detecting Policy 1 and Metal and Mineral Detecting Policy 2.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as metal detecting as set out in both Section 42 of the AMAA Act 1979 and Section 16 of the Scheduled Monument Consent Policy.

The works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way as to fully maintain the cultural significance of the monument. The application is carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned and so is compliant with Metal and Mineral Detecting Policy 1 and Metal and Mineral Detecting Policy 2. Therefore, no conditions are considered necessary.

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	Mary MacLeod Rivett	**Date**	19 November 2020
Approved by	James Bruhn	**Date**	24 November 2020

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Project design
- Survey methodology document containing location map, survey plan, and owner permission.