Scheduled Monument Consent Report on Handling

This Report on Handling should be read with the associated Decision Notice, which provides a summary of our decision.

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300084266
Scheduled Monument	Dunnottar Castle
Index no	SM986
Grid reference	NO 88108 83875
Received or validated	16 January 2026
Summary of proposed works	Re-turf area of access path to cover exposed pipe and cables

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent for the re-turfing of an area of access path to cover exposed pipe and cables be granted.

2. Background

N/A

3. Proposals

- Addition of topsoil
- Addition of turf to cover an area of 1m x 30cm
- Addition of temporary barrier around turf to allow growth and prevent access

See Application documents for further information

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.

Scheduled Monument Consents Policy

Scheduled Monument Policy Aim

A monument is included in the schedule to secure its long-term protection in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the form it has come down to us. The aim of this policy is to ensure this long-term protection wherever possible.

Scheduled Monuments Principles

- 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 that is the primary consideration in determining applications for consent at scheduled monuments.
- The principle of preserving scheduled monuments will only be set aside in circumstances where wider considerations are deemed, on balance, to be of greater importance to the national Interest.
- The more important particular features are to the monument's cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify those features.
- Each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs. Any proposed change to it should be fully and explicitly justified.
- The management of scheduled monuments should be informed by current policy and guidance, up-to-date professional and academic research and, where appropriate, relevant consultation.

Scheduled Monument Policy 1

When undertaking works to scheduled monuments, their significance should be maintained.

Scheduled Monuments can have meaning and value beyond their physical remains. Many have important historical, cultural or emotional associations that give them a particular significance in the life of the nation, or of the local community within which they are set. Many also have outstanding landscape or picturesque values. When undertaking works to them, it is therefore essential their significance is maintained and not reduced.

Scheduled Monument Consent Policy Aim

Works on scheduled monuments should normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1

Works to scheduled monuments will normally only be permitted if they have minimal impact upon a monument's cultural significance.

b) Assessment

This is an application for minor works which raises no scheduled monument policy concerns.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely.

d) Conclusion

The works would not affect the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with Scheduled Monument Policies.

6. Recommended decision

The works comply with scheduled monument consent policies and other relevant considerations.

I recommend consent is granted without conditions.

7. Conditions

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Sarah Hannon-Bland
Date	19 January 2026
Approved by	N/A
Date	N/A

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Photograph of exposed cable and pipe
- Plan of location of works on the scheduled monument