



Case reference	SMC-ANG-006
Application details	Excavation of evaluation trenches
Site address	Arbroath Abbey and associated buildings, including the Abbot's House
Applicant	Historic Environment Scotland
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	Angus Council
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by Historic Environment Scotland go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
Representations	NIL
Date notified to Ministers	19 December 2019
Date of recommendation	10 January 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought by Historic Environment Scotland for the excavation of 12 archaeological evaluation trenches within the scheduled area of Arbroath Abbey and associated buildings, including the Abbot's House. The trenches are proposed to improve understanding of the presence, depth and character of buried archaeological remains. They range in size, from 1 metre by 1 metre, to 6 metres by 5 metres.
- The proposed trenches are all within an area south of the Abbey church. An aerial photograph of the area in question, a plan of the trench locations and three views of the area affected are included at the end of this assessment report.

Consultations and Representations:

- No third party representations were received.
- Upon notification, PAD consulted the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) and they raised no concerns. Their comments are discussed in paragraph 5 below.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland has concluded that the proposal is broadly consistent with relevant policy, and intends to grant Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the proposed works. However, the proposal is not considered

to be the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument. HES has therefore notified Scottish Ministers of its intention to grant consent, as required by the Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015.

2. The scheduled monument is of national importance as one of the most ambitious monastic complexes to be founded in Scotland, and because of the high value of its architectural remains and archaeological potential, which together can provide information about many aspects of medieval society.
3. HES has considered the application and concluded that the proposed works would have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. HES considers the works have been clearly justified as having the following public benefits: (1) increasing knowledge of the archaeological sensitivity of the site and (2) informing future interpretation and promotion of the site to the public. It considers that the works are sensitively designed and properly planned and that no conditions are necessary.
4. HES concludes that the proposal is broadly consistent with relevant policy (detailed in HES's Scheduled Monument Consents Policy document).
5. CHED noted that the works are intended to enhance community engagement and understanding of the site to greater enable celebration of our shared national heritage, in the context of the 700 year anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. CHED considers that the works would allow both greater understanding of the site, and a workspace for an artist in residence within the setting of the Abbey to be chosen sympathetically.
6. In summary, the SMC application does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

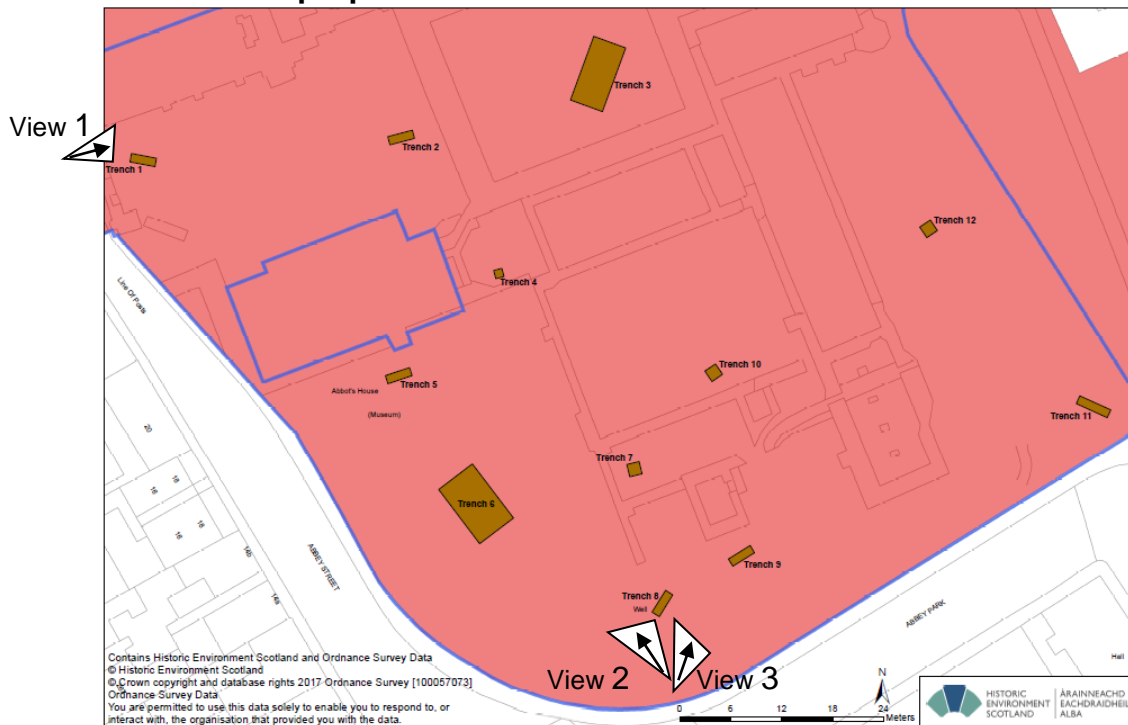
Decision/Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to determine.

The area within which the proposed trenches are located



Locations of proposed trenches



View 1



View 2



View 3

