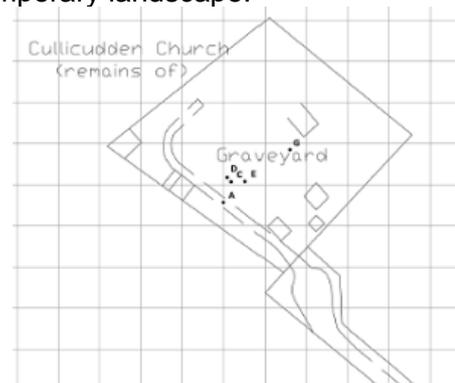
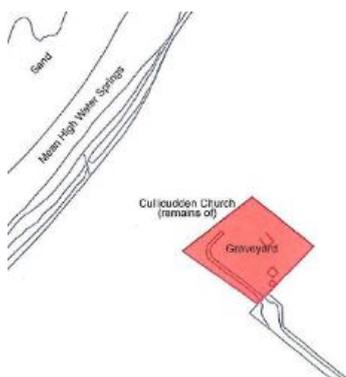


Case reference	SMC-HLD-001
Application details	Relocation of 5 graveslabs from Cullicudden Church and burial ground into the Gun Munro Mausoleum, St Michaels Church, Kirton – SM5419
Site address	Cullicudden church and burial ground, Cullicudden near Dingwall – SM13346
Applicant	The Kirkmichael Trust
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland
Local Authority Area	The Highland Council
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – requires Historic Environment Scotland to notify Ministers if it intends to grant Scheduled Monument Consent where the works proposed go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.
Representations	2 letters of support (Resolis Community Council and The Highland Council)
Date notified to Ministers	14 September 2016 (but not fully documented until 22 September 2016)
Date of recommendation	11 October 2016
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the relocation of five graveslabs from Cullicudden burial ground to an indoor location within the Gun Munro Mausoleum, part of another scheduled monument known as St Michael’s Church, Kirton, approx. 3.8km away. The slabs, identified as A,C,D,E and G on the plan and photograph below, are at serious risk of further deterioration from exposure to the elements and damp soils.
- The Cullicudden monument comprises a late medieval church and burial ground. The church is visible as the gable end of an upstanding masonry structure, located within a roughly square graveyard (scheduled area in red below). The graveyard contains a fine collection of carved stone graveslabs and funerary monuments dating from at least the 14th to 19th centuries. The church and graveyard is of particular importance because of its long chronological range and it would have formed a prominent part of the late medieval landscape. It is now a picturesque ruin in the contemporary landscape.





Old Cullicudden Kirkyard. Locations of Stones A, C, D, E and G to be relocated



St Michael's Church and burial ground, Kirkton Slabs to relocate to Gun Munro Mausoleum above

Consultations and Representations:

- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they do not consider that the SMC applications raises issues of national interest that would merit Ministerial intervention.
- The 2 representations received are in support of the graveslab relocations due to the reduction of risk from serious damage and deterioration and increase in public knowledge and accessibility to the stones.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant consent for the graveslab removals having fully assessed the potential impact on the fabric and cultural significance of the monument as well as the five alternative options for their preservation and protection. The five graveslabs to be removed have been identified as the most critical at risk and have demonstrated a loss of carved detail over the last 20 years.
2. The application forms part of the wider Kirkmichael Trust's Heritage Centre Project where a previous SMC has been granted to repair and re-roof the Gun Munro mausoleum within St Michael's Church burial ground to create an interpretative historical, genealogical and archaeological display and become the home for local carved stones at risk. The stones are to be displayed in accordance with the agreed conservation and method statement which this application is also adhering to.

3. The impact of the removal of five graveslabs from Cullicudden burial ground will be mitigated by the installation of slabs of the same dimensions as the originals within the vacant area left by the removals. These will contain information on the detail and importance of the original stones and their new location. Enhanced interpretation at the mausoleum and St Michael's Church will provide added public benefit which is supported by Resolis Community Council and The Highland Council.
4. HES considers the removal of five graveslabs is not the minimum level of intervention necessary and will have an impact on the cultural significance of Cullicudden, hence the notification. However they consider the benefits to the graveslabs by ensuring their future preservation and long term survival within the local community outweighs the negative impact of their removal and potential for further deterioration and decay. They concluded the proposed works would prevent further deterioration of the graveslabs and increase public access and that the works accord with section 3.14 of the HES Policy Statement.
5. The graveslabs have already been recorded by HES but the methodology supplied includes provision for further recording prior to their removal. Some aspects of the works proposed require further control and HES have attached five conditions to the consent to cover areas such as archaeological mitigation and monitoring, finding of unexpected archaeological deposits and exact details of the replacement slabs.
6. In summary, the SMC application does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Scottish Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to issue SMC with conditions.