

Case reference	SMC-FIF-001
Application details	Construction of education pavilion in Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve (NNR) affecting Tentsmuir Coastal Defences (SM 9712)
Site address	Tentsmuir Bay, Tayport, Fife
Applicant Determining Authority Local Authority Area	Scottish Natural Heritage / Kirsty Maguire Architects as agent Historic Environment Scotland Fife 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	
Date notified to Ministers Date of recommendation	8 November 2017 29 November 2017
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the construction of a steel and timber framed, partially clad, open shelter to be located at the entrance to the Tentsmuir NNR, in an area of disturbed open ground at the edge of woodland, about 1.5km SE of Tentsmuir Point. The development site is within the much larger scheduled area of Tentsmuir coastal WWII defences (see red area below).
- The monument comprises a complex of linear defences from Leuchars in the south to Lundin Bridge in the North East, constructed by Polish troops in the late 1940s. The structures range from concrete anti-tank blocks to pill boxes, command posts and quadrant towers, intended to protect a stretch of coastline which was considered particularly vulnerable to German attack. It is of national importance because it is one of the best preserved stretches of WWII coastal defences in Scotland which contains a wide range of defensive forms which can still be seen today.

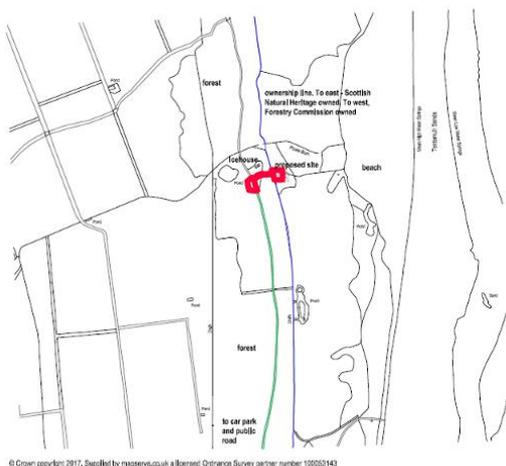


Consultations and Representations:

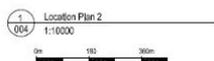
- No representations were received.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they are not aware of any broader context or issues surrounding the case and have no further comments to make.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant consent for the works as the proposed addition to the scheduled monument, which has no direct conservation benefit, goes beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. This is a significant departure from policy as set out in section 3.16 of HES' Policy Statement.
2. The application has been submitted by Scottish Natural Heritage who are the Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve managers. The agents, Kirsty Maguire Architects, are working on their behalf. Fife Council granted the related planning permission for the proposed structure on 18 August 2017.
3. The objectives of the project are to enhance the visitor experience of education groups and all visitors to the NNR by providing shelter and seating. The project is not necessary for site management of the NNR or the scheduled monument, however the provision of a pavilion is one of the main management tasks identified in SNH's approved National Nature Reserve Plan.
4. An assessment of the impact of the structure on natural heritage concerns led directly to the identification of the site as being the most able to accommodate a new structure without adversely impacting on the Firth of Tay & Eden SAC/SPA and Tayport to Tentsmuir Coast SSSI designations. The site has been chosen to minimise the impact on the dunescape and the proposed structure is relatively low in profile.

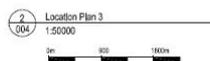


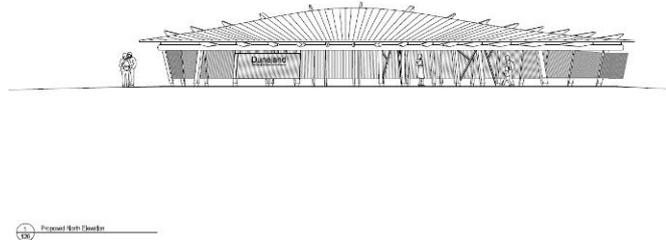
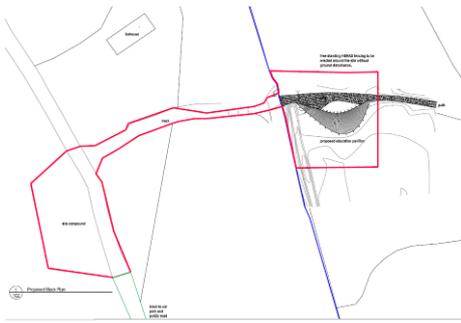
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green line shows existing track to be used for site access from start of public road (fence barrier)

for National Nature Reserve (equates to SNH ownership boundaries) please refer to reserve map





5. HES states that the impact of the structure on the monument was not considered as part of the initial site selection. However further work has confirmed that the structure can be accommodated with minimal visual and direct impacts on the monument. This is because the site is in a sheltered location where views to the foreshore are already restricted by trees and dunes; does not have any visual links with the standing structures; has no known WWII features, structures or deposits intended to be protected and has no evidence of buried archaeology.
6. HES considers that the works are not extensive, would affect a very small part of the monument, will have limited impact on the cultural significance and would bring important public benefits in facilitating access and interpretation to the NNR. A single condition is considered necessary to control works in the event that significant unexpected remains are found. Therefore they consider the works proposed are acceptable in meeting the terms of policy for scheduled monuments and taking all other material considerations into account.
7. 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 issue Scheduled Monument Consent with a single condition.