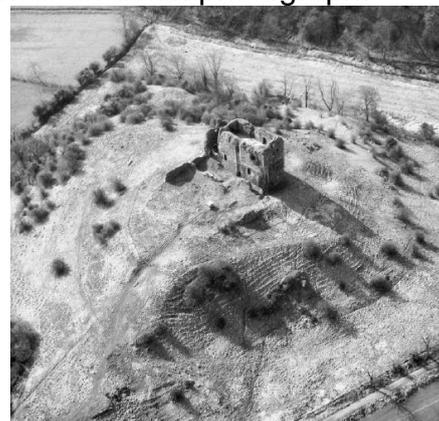




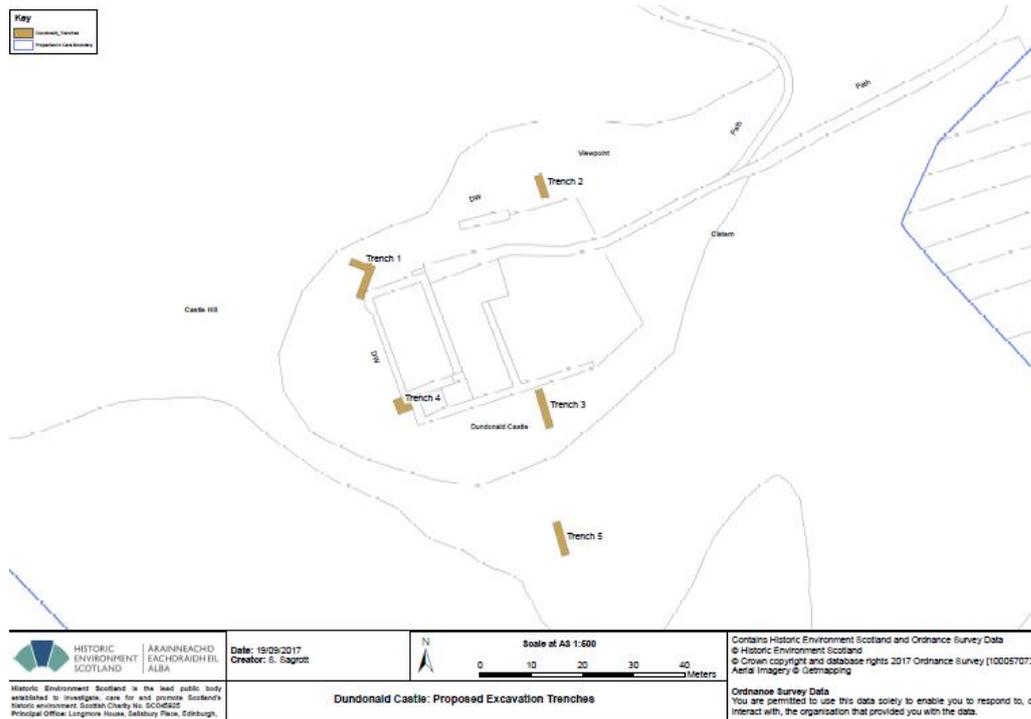
<b>Case reference</b>	SMC-SAY-001
<b>Application details</b>	Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation
<b>Site address</b>	Dundonald Castle, Dundonald (SM 90112)
<b>Applicant</b>	Historic Environment Scotland – Cultural Resources Team
<b>Determining Authority</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
<b>Local Authority Area</b>	South Ayrshire Council
<b>Reason(s) for notification</b>	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by <b>Historic Environment Scotland</b> go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
<b>Representations</b>	Nil
<b>Date notified to Ministers</b>	8 March 2018
<b>Date of recommendation</b>	26 March 2018
<b>Decision / recommendation</b>	Clear

### Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for archaeological evaluation and the excavation of 5 trenches at Dundonald Castle, a property in the guardianship of Historic Environment Scotland. The castle ruins are located in a prominent position on the summit of a hill overlooking the village of Dundonald and are comparable to other ancient regional castles such as Dumbarton and Edinburgh.
- The monument comprises the remains of a Bronze Age settlement, Iron Age fort, 12<sup>th</sup> century earth and timber castle, 13<sup>th</sup> century castle masonry incorporated into the 14<sup>th</sup> century tower and 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards remodelling. The site is closely associated with the Stewart/Stuart family, both as High Stewards and Kings of Scotland. It makes a significant contribution to the understanding of domestic fortified dwellings, their time depth and the cultural and social influences that may have informed their development and architecture.
- The scheduled area is in red below - adjacent is an aerial photograph.



The proposed 5 trenches are illustrated below:



### Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were received by HES (Heritage Directorate) during their consideration.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they have no comments to make on the proposal.

### Assessment:

1. SMC is sought for archaeological hand excavations and reinstatement of trenches at Dundonald Castle in the open ground surrounding the castle. The proposals go beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. Therefore it is a significant departure from policy as set out in section 3.16 of Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement 2016.
2. The project is to be undertaken by HES' Conservation Directorate Cultural Resources Team (CRT) in conjunction with their contractor CFA Archaeology. HES' Heritage Directorate have assessed the application and consider the project objectives have been clearly set out and the research design questions align with the Scottish Archaeological Framework's (ScARF) Iron Age Panel Report recommending research into enclosed places of prehistoric and mediaeval origin. The research design summarises the results of previous archaeological investigations and queries the date and nature of prehistoric settlements, while seeking to understand the layout, construction, fortification and landscaping of the castle remains.

3. The proposed trenches are small and targeted on geophysical anomalies previously identified. Excavation would allow for evaluation of these multi-period remains and their recording, with the remains being left in situ, where possible. HES consider the physical impact of the proposed works would be to remove turf, topsoil and overburden from 5 trenches by hand (total area of 57sq. m) which is destructive and removes artefacts and deposits but is not considered extensive. The trench locations and dimensions have been minimised as far as possible while achieving the project aims. The excavation methodology is to follow archaeological best practice and established industry standards and the evaluation will be carried out by CFA Archaeology accompanied by archaeologists from CRT.
4. HES have been working in partnership with the Friends of Dundonald Castle to raise public awareness of the site, locally and further afield. Key project aims include public benefits such as an increased understanding of the monument as this aids its positive management, appreciation and community engagement especially with the Friends of Dundonald Castle group through outreach and collaboration.
5. In conclusion, HES' Heritage Directorate considers the benefits of the proposed works are greater than the negative effects of the removal of archaeological deposits. They believe the works have been justified in accordance with section 3.17 of their policy statement. The application also meets section 3.20 because it has been demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned. However, the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary, consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, hence the requirement to notify Ministers.
6. In summary, this 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.