



Case reference	SMC-SAY-002
Application details Site address	Test pitting within existing pipeline wayleave, construction of replacement transmission station Girvan Mains, Roman Camps, linear cropmark and enclosure, Girvan
Applicant Determining Authority Local Authority Area	SGN (Scottish Gas Networks) Historic Environment Scotland (HES) South Ayrshire 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 Date of recommendation	7 January 2020 29 January 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is being sought for works associated with the construction of a new Small Transmission Reduction Station (STRS) for the local gas supply network, the decommissioning of the existing STRS and associated landscaping, infrastructure and archaeological works. The application has been submitted by Scottish Gas Network (SGN) and it is being proposed to provide an essential upgrade to the gas supply network for the Girvan area.
- The monument is Girvan Mains, Roman camps, linear cropmark and enclosure. The monument comprises the remains of two Roman temporary camps, adjacent linear features and a circular enclosure, all identified through cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. The monument is of national importance for its potential to contribute to our understanding of prehistoric and Roman settlements and economy, and the Roman military invasion of Scotland.
- The scheduled area (see Annex) measures 940m from its easternmost to its westernmost point and 690m from its northernmost to its southernmost point, including all the cropmarks and area around in which associated remains may survive. This application relates to a specific area of ground on the eastern side of the camp between the A77 and an unnamed local access road on the eastern edge of the scheduled area (see Figure 1).

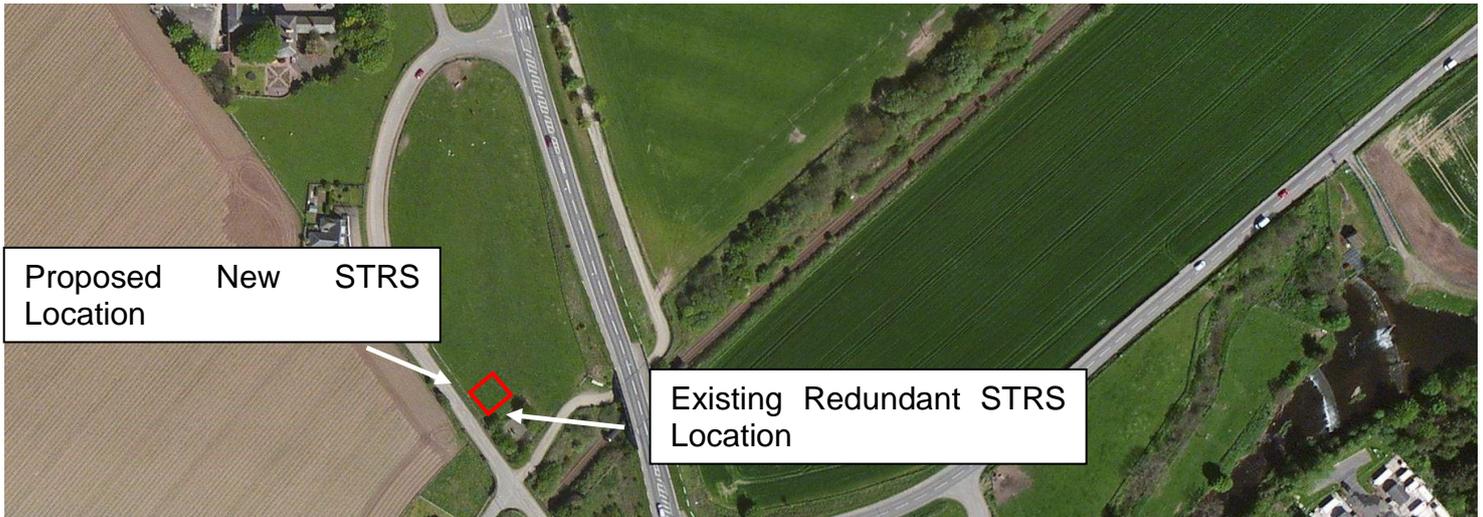


Figure 1 - Location of existing and proposed works

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made on this application.
- Upon notification, PAD consulted the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) who raised no concerns over the application.

Assessment:

1. This application has been notified to Scottish Ministers as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is minded to grant Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for works that are not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument.
2. The proposed works are for the excavation of 4 test trenches to confirm the location and nature of existing pipelines, archaeological investigations comprising a total topsoil strip of the application area to facilitate excavation and the recording of any archaeological features, construction of the new STRS and associated works including landscaping and decommissioning and dismantling/demolition of the current STRS and construction of a car park on site.
3. The construction of the new STRS itself will involve the installation of new machinery, pipes, control cabinets/kiosks, electricity cables, footpaths, roadways and hardstandings/parking, security fencing, stock fencing and tree planting. The maximum depth of disturbance will be 1.5m for pipe works. HES state that the proposed works will be undertaken by appropriately experienced and qualified contractors. Jacobs will provide much of the project management for the works and their in-house archaeological team will undertake the archaeological works.
4. HES consider that the physical impact of the proposed works on the monument and its cultural significance, would be the potential removal or destruction of all archaeological deposits within the application area. However, HES state that previous evaluation works undertaken in 2019 within the area encountered no remains associated with the Roman use of the site, or later prehistoric settlement

in the vicinity, but did find a large single pit containing late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints. This feature is similar to a number of other pits found in the vicinity.

5. HES state that having undertaken this earlier evaluation in 2019, the applicant concluded that a 'strip and map' recording and recovery exercise was the best option for dealing with any surviving archaeological remains within the development site and that the applicant has submitted a detailed written scheme of investigation on this basis.
6. In pre-application discussions with the applicant, HES noted the results of this earlier evaluation, along with the lack of alternative site options for the proposed development and the existing disturbance within the proposed development area. HES also noted that it recognises the importance of the proposed work in terms of its social and economic impact, as without the upgraded station, the domestic and industrial gas supply for the area around Girvan would be at ongoing risk of failure. As a result, HES is content that the proposed archaeological mitigation is proportionate and acceptable.
7. HES state that the proposed works would not have a significant residual aesthetic impact on the monument, nor directly interfere with, or remove any known features of the monument. HES also note that the area of the proposed works is already impacted by the existing STRS infrastructure, modern road and railway connections and domestic and farm buildings. For these reasons, no conditions have been added to this application by HES. HES consider that the proposed works complies with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4 as set out in the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) adopted in May 2019.
8. HES consider that although the works have been designed to minimise the impact on the cultural significance of the monument, they do still represent an extensive intervention to the monument. However, overall HES is of the view that the works would generate public benefits of national importance, which outweigh the impact on the cultural significance of this section of the monument. Therefore, HES consider that the proposed works comply with Scheduled Monument Consent Policies 1 and 3 in HEPS.
9. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that this SMC application does not raise issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Scottish Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to HES to issue Scheduled Monument Consent with no conditions.

Annex – Overall Scheduled Area, Proposed Works and Trench Locations



Figure 2 - Overall Scheduled Area (Pastmap)

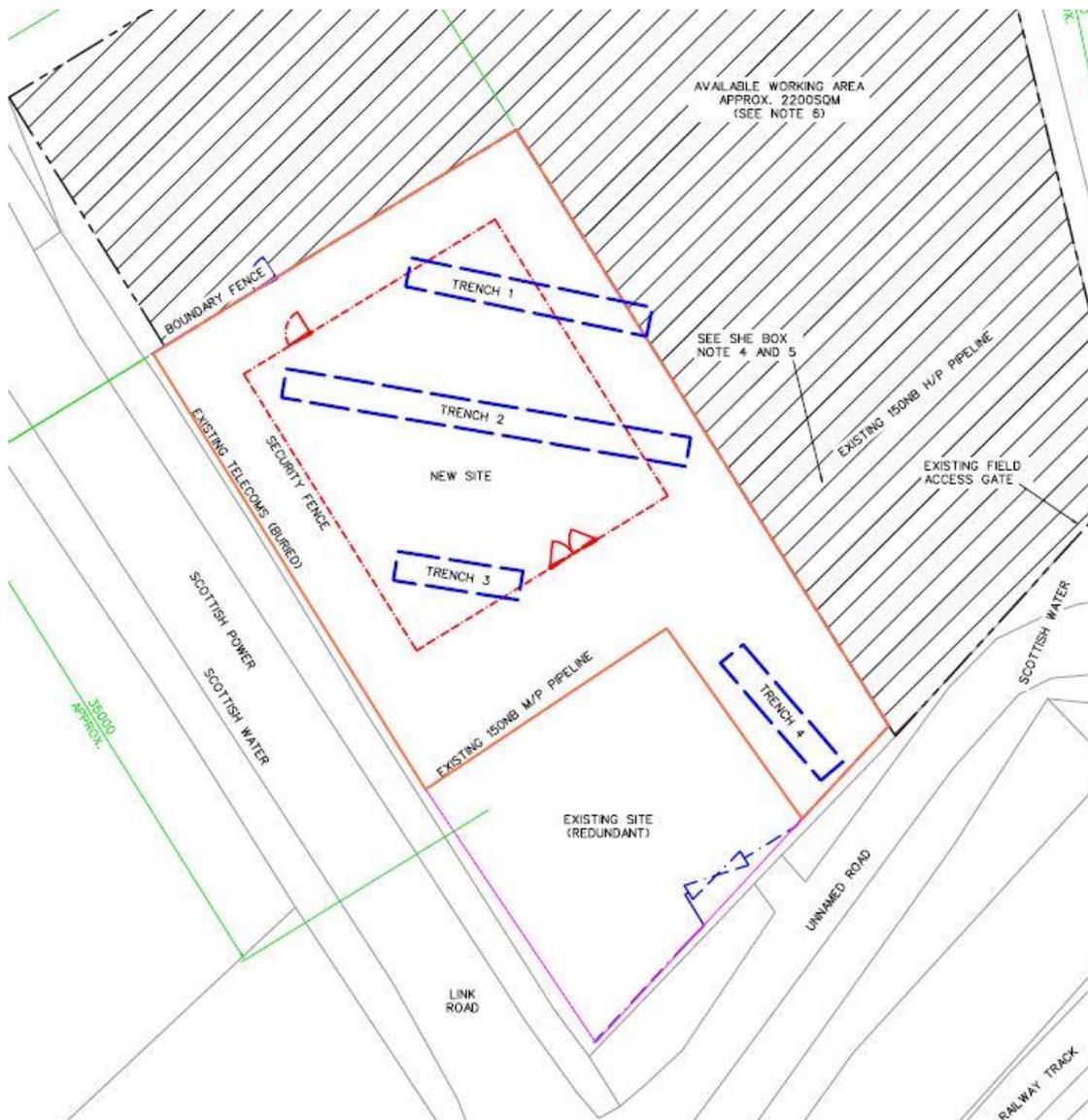


Figure 3 - Trench Locations (Submitted by Developer)