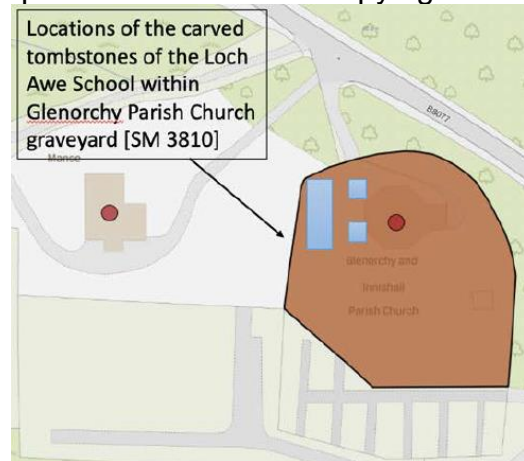
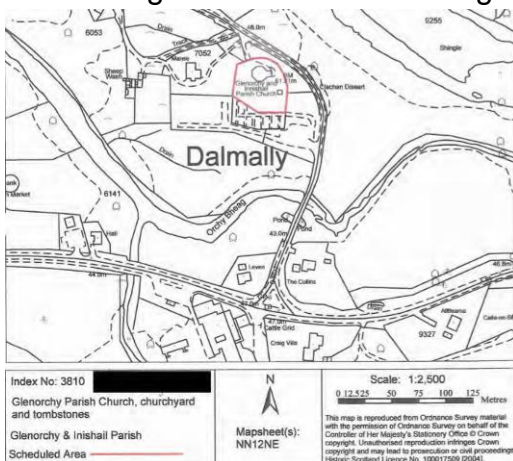


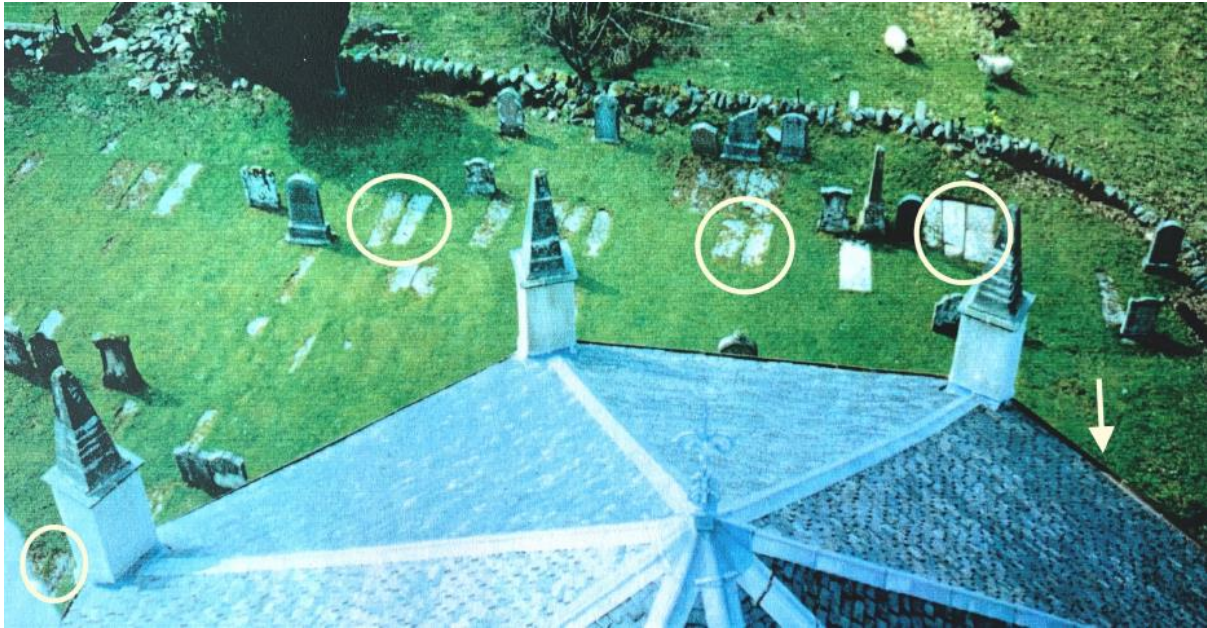


Case reference	SMC-ABC-007
Application details	Dalmally Carved Stones Project
Site address	Glenorchy Parish Church, Churchyard and Tombstones, Dalmally (SM 3810)
Applicant	The Clan Gregor Society of Scotland
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	Argyll and Bute Council
Reason(s) for notification	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
Representations	Nil
Date notified to Ministers	29 January 2020
Date of recommendation	24 February 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

### Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the lifting, conservation and re-display of seven carved medieval graveslabs from the grounds of Glenorchy Parish Church, in the village of Dalmally.
- The monument comprises the churchyard and tombstones of Glenorchy Parish Church which is a multi-phase site containing the remains of the previous medieval and 17<sup>th</sup> century churches. The current church dates from 19<sup>th</sup> century and its structure, along with the active burial lairs and boundary walls, are exempt from the scheduling.
- The monument is of national importance due to its collection of medieval graveslabs, dating from 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and for its potential to provide archaeological information relating to the previous churches occupying the site.





### Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they raise no concerns. They consider the stones are exposed to significant damage from weathering, erosion and impacts from graveyard maintenance in their current location and that the action proposed is the best to conserve the cultural and historical significance of the graveslabs in the longer term.

### Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant scheduled monument consent (SMC) for the relocation of seven graveslabs which impacts on the Scheduled Monument as the works are not considered the minimum level of intervention consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument.
2. The works to the graveslabs are being proposed by the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland to ensure their long-term preservation and conservation. The carved stones are considered to be of the Loch Awe school and are different from other regional carvings such as the Iona school. At present the graveslabs are suffering from erosion due to weather exposure and are being damaged from grass cutting machinery used in maintaining the graveyard or by being submerged by turf and sinking out of view. By relocating them inside the church most closely associated with their location, the significant risk of their cultural significance being eroded or lost is eliminated and the opportunity for conservation, interpretation and contextual research is greatly increased.
3. The graveslabs are to be hand excavated to allow removal; consolidated to ensure safety during removal and transportation; conservator treated including cleaning, pinning if structurally necessary, and consolidation; displayed inside

adjacent A-listed church, with simple replacement markers to be installed in location of each graveslab removed. Any graveslab which cannot be safely removed without damage will have measures put in place to try and prevent further damage or loss in situ, to be agreed with HES.

4. The relocation and conservation works would be undertaken between April and August 2020 by accredited conservators. An archaeological watching brief will also be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced archaeological contractors to ensure that any archaeological features or human remains are recorded and treated appropriately.
5. The proposed locations for the re-display of each of the stones within the window recesses of the church sanctuary has been agreed with the Church of Scotland's Committee on Church Art and Architecture (CARTA) and the Church board. A detailed methodology for the individual stones and their bespoke display fittings will be supplied for agreement with HES. The outside locations of the graveslabs will be made clear by simple markers after removal, the details of which are to be agreed with HES. Ongoing monitoring of the graveslabs will be undertaken by the church board, clan Gregor Society and Dalmally Historical Association.
6. HES consider the works to be extensive but the physical impacts would be comparatively minor in relation to the extent of the ancient monument. They believe the works are clearly necessary for the long term preservation of the stones and are compliant with their Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 3 (SMCP). The application is carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned and will ensure public access to the stones and their continued conservation and maintenance. However HES require further information in advance of the works to enable the application to be fully compliant with SMCP 4, hence three conditions are to be imposed – i, no conservation works to commence until a detailed condition report and method statement for each stone has been approved; ii, details of fixings and redisplay in the church to be provided and; iii, details of the form, design and method of installation of the replacement markers to be provided.
7. In summary and for the reasons set out above, 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 with three conditions.