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| Case reference | SMC-SBD-003 |
| Application details | Farm track to improve access on Steel Knowe and improving Jordan Sike |
| Site address | Steel Knowe, By Chesters, Scottish Borders (SM 7144) |
| Applicant | Keith Laurie |
| Determining Authority | Historic Environment Scotland (HES) |
| Local Authority Area | Scottish Borders 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 | 23 June 2020 |
| Date of recommendation | 17 July 2020 |
| Decision / recommendation | Clear |

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent is sought for the formation of a type 1 gravel access track, along with ditch cleaning and installation of a culvert at the Jordan Sike, Steelknowe, by Chesters in the Scottish Borders.
- The Monument comprises an extensive group of farmsteads, enclosures and field systems on the NW and SE sides of a stream known as the Jordan Sike.

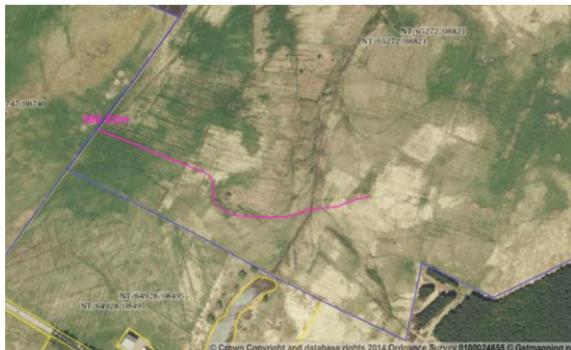


Figure 1: Track position on aerial image



Figure 2: OS Location Map / Scheduled Area

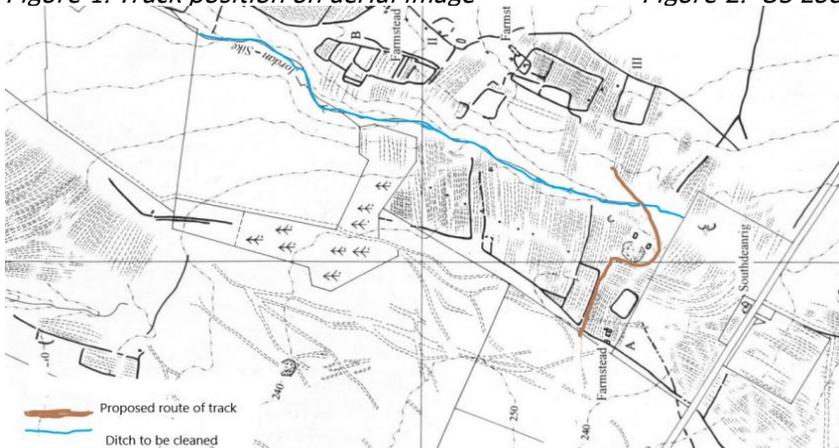


Figure 3: Site plan, Ditch marked blue, Track marked brown

Consultations and Representations:

- No third party representations were received by HES during their handling of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) following notification, who consider the proposal would not raise issues of national importance. CHED confirms the proposed development should have minimal impact on the integrity of the monument and will offer better environmental and ecological use of the site by offering greater opportunities for grazing management and improved drainage.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant scheduled monument consent (SMC) for the installation of a gravel track, along with a drainage culvert, 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 application was submitted by the landowner to HES. The landowner has carried out pre-application consultation with HES on site. Plans and schematic cross sections of the track and culvert were submitted with the application.
3. The proposed new track would be 2.8 - 3m wide and 200mm in depth, and run from the gate heading across the Jordan Sike, with a short length on the far side of the burn as noted on Figures 1 and 3. Where the track would run over ridge and furrow it would run parallel the line of past ploughing so as to minimise disturbance to the monument. The track is to be laid directly on the existing ground, and will not involve invasive ground works. HES are content the track works would be reversible in future.
4. The Removal of silt from the burn would also be undertaken. The mechanical clearance and culverting of the Jordan Sike being proposed would, allowing the water course to clear again, and a pipe / culvert would be laid at the base to reduce future silting with the aim of improving passage for livestock and agricultural vehicles. Silting of the burn has caused flooding, which has damaged parts of the site in the past. The works should prevent future flooding and erosion of the monument. HES are satisfied that the silting of the burn has occurred over the last century, and is therefore unlikely to contain any deposits relating to the monument.
5. The works being would improve access and drainage, which in turn facilitate grazing, inhibit scrub growth, and reduce livestock erosion around waterlogged areas adjoining the burn. These works will extend the life of the monument. The aesthetic and physical impacts would be minor in nature.
6. Overall, HES consider that the proposed works would have limited impact on the cultural significance of the monument. The application is, on the whole, carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned. However, further information would be required in advance of the works to enable the application to be fully compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy - HES has noted that the application does not contain a timetable

for the works, and as a result, a condition of consent is required. The proposal is concluded to be otherwise broadly consistent with relevant policy.

7. Scottish Ministers agree with the conclusions reached by HES. The physical impact of the proposed works on the monument and its cultural significance would be minimal. The limited impacts on the cultural significance of the monument are compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1.
8. In summary, this 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 Scheduled monument consent subject to one condition.