



Case reference	SMC-SBD-005
Application details	Archaeological excavation
Site address	Hume Castle, castle and associated settlement, Berwickshire (SM 387)
Applicant	Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice Ltd
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	15 July 2020
Date of recommendation	23 July 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent is sought for archaeological excavations in the grounds surrounding Hume Castle. The castle dates from the 13th Century and was largely destroyed by Oliver Cromwell’s army in 1651. The castle was adapted in the 18th Century to create an “eye-catcher” or folly due to its location on a prominent rocky outcrop with extensive views across Berwickshire.
- The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant addition to our understanding of the construction and function of medieval castles and their associated settlements. The monument still retains its field characteristics and the settlement remains, in particular, are very well preserved.



Figure 1: Aerial Image, Hume Castle and settlement



Figure 2: Scheduled Area and Proposed Trench and Test Pit Locations

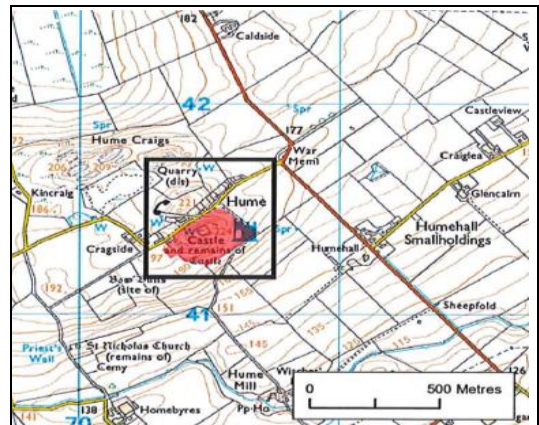


Figure 3: Photo ©HES
Figure 4: OS Location

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were received to the proposals during its handling by HES.
- Following notification to Scottish Ministers, PAD consultation with the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) was undertaken. CHED raise no objections, and confirm that the proposals do not raise any issues of significant national importance.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant Scheduled Monument Consent for archaeological excavation to investigate and characterise structural remains and the potential eastern defences of Hume Castle. The works are beyond the minimum level of intervention consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument, and the application was therefore notified to Scottish Ministers.
2. The application has been made by Heritage and Archaeological Research Limited (HARP) in conjunction with the Hume Castle Preservation Trust (HCPT) as part of a community archaeology project, "Contextualising Hume", funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Fallago Environment Fund. The application is for the archaeological excavation by hand of three test pits and two trenches. It is being proposed as part of a wider three-year, community research, excavation and interpretation project, focused on Hume Castle and the surrounding landscape.

The application is accompanied by a written scheme of investigation, project design and protected places and species assessment.

3. In terms of the works, these comprise the excavation of two trenches, both 4 metres x 4 metres, and three smaller pits, as set out in Figure 2 above. The ground would be backfilled and the turf reinstated following investigations
4. HES are satisfied that the works do not conflict with their Scheduled Monument Policies 1 and 2 as the proposed excavations form part of a wider research project that has been well targeted to ensure that impacts on the monument are minimised. They do however consider that a condition is required, setting out that any variation in the timetable must be agreed with HES. There is some uncertainty in respect of timing of works because of Coronavirus restrictions. The condition will enable compliance with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4, and allow for flexibility in the timing of the works. HES conclude that the small scale works would have a minimal impact on the overall cultural significance of the scheduled monument and any impact is clearly outweighed by significant research public benefits.
5. CHED advise that the proposed excavation of this site would offer depth of knowledge into a good example of a medieval castle and its associated settlement and supports the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework. The opportunity for collaboration with local volunteers, and the educational opportunities it provides increases the community value of the proposal. The proposals do not raise any issues of significant national importance.
6. 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.