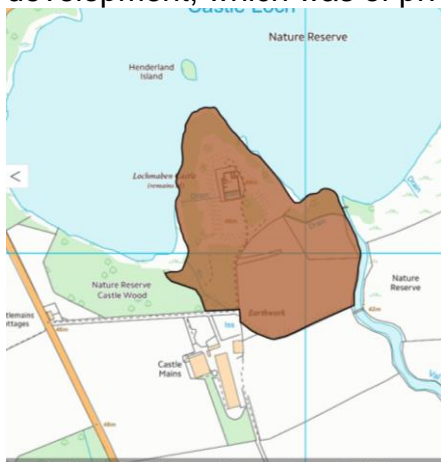




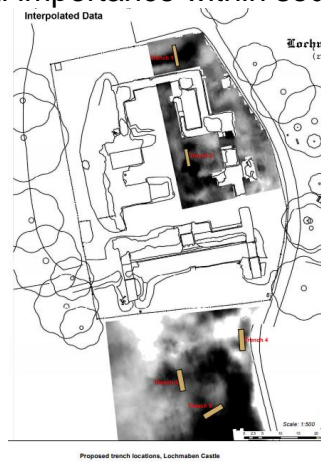
<b>Case reference</b>	SMC-DAG-002
<b>Application details</b>	Archaeological evaluation
<b>Site address</b>	Lochmaben Castle and Peel, Lochmaben (SM 90205)
<b>Applicant</b>	Historic Environment Scotland (Cultural Resources Team)
<b>Determining Authority</b>	Historic Environment Scotland (Heritage Directorate)
<b>Local Authority Area</b>	Dumfries & Galloway
<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>	1
<b>Date notified to Ministers</b>	8 June 2018
<b>Date of recommendation</b>	22 June 2018
<b>Decision / recommendation</b>	Clear

### Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for archaeological evaluations comprising five trenches at Lochmaben Castle and Peel. The castle is sited on a promontory into Castle Loch. The peel dates from the 13th Century, whilst the castle dates from the 14th century. The monument survives as earthworks, substantial stone structures and archaeological features. The area around Lochmaben Castle is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a Special Protection Area (SPA) is present at Castle Loch.
- The Castle is a Property in Care of Scottish Ministers. The monument is of national importance as the best-preserved, and earliest, example of the peels built in Scotland by Edward I. It is an impressive example of a stone medieval castle and has the potential to produce further evidence related to its development, which was of pivotal importance within southwest Scotland.



Lochmaben scheduled area in brown



Location of trenches

## **Consultations and Representations:**

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) consulted with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for their views regarding impacts on the SSSI and SPA and associated species. SNH were content with the proposals and whilst comments were made in relation to species falling into open trenches, SNH had no recommendations for special conditions to be imposed on the proposed operation. No other representations were received.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they advise that they have no comments to make on the proposals.

## **Assessment:**

1. HES (Heritage Directorate) are minded to grant consent for the archaeological excavations at Lochmaben Peel and Castle. The works, along with related ground disturbance and removal of material, go beyond the minimal level of intervention which is consistent with preserving what is culturally significant in the monument.
2. The project is to be undertaken by HES' Conservation Directorate Cultural Resources Team (CRT) in partnership with their contractor CFA Archaeology, who produced written statement of investigation. The excavations would be managed by Mr Adrian Cox, HES and day to day operational archaeological works would be carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd.
3. The project aims to understand the occupation and development of the site; raise public awareness of the site both at a local and national level and act a catalyst for on-going community engagement. There are 8 research questions to be tested: (1) nature of construction of the platform that forms the peel; (2) date of the first stone castle on the site; (3) nature of the castle as an island stronghold; (4) location of James IV's Great Hall; (5) construction and repair of buildings in peel, and mustering of troops during James IV and James V reign; (6) are buildings in the peel all of timber construction; (7) are there any pre-stone castle buildings on the site; (8) nature and extent of the 1897 landscaping works.
4. The works build upon earlier desk based assessment and geophysical survey work, and seek to establish a chronology for the development and occupation of the site. The investigations respond to key research areas identified in the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF). The site, along with similar nearby sites are poorly understood.
5. The proposals would see a total of 5 trenches excavated by hand. Trench 1 measures 5m x 1m and its location is based on geophysical survey results indicating a masonry structure. Trench 2 measures 5m x 1m, is again based on geophysical survey results indicating a masonry structure in the centre of the courtyard. Trench 3 measures 6m x 1.5m and sited to consider archaeological layers. Trench 4 measures 6m x 1.5m and is positioned to focus within the peel in an area highlighted by geophysical survey. Trench 5 measures 6m x 1.5m and is located to target the centre of the peel. At the end of the excavations, terram

geotextile would be placed at the bottom of each trench, to protect any unexcavated archaeological deposits, and all areas would be backfilled by hand and the turf replaced. The project team are experienced and although staffing of field work would include a significant proportion of volunteers, they would be closely supervised and directed.

6. HES consider that the works are consistent with their relevant policy. The project design was revised following pre-application discussions between the applicant and HES Heritage Directorate, and the proposals reflect those discussions. The application also partially meets paragraph 3.20 because it has partially demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.
7. HES consider the scheme is the minimum necessary to achieve the projects objective, and would leave the majority of the site's archaeological deposits intact. HES are content the works would not visually alter the monument. HES recommend approval subject to two conditions, firstly requiring an experienced site director to manage the field project, and a secondly requiring that protected species can escape open trenches outwith working hours.
8. It is the conclusion of HES that the benefits of the works would be greater than the negative impacts of the removal of some archaeology.
9. In conclusion, 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 the Scheduled Monument Consent with two conditions.