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| Case reference | SMC-EDS-001 |
| Application details | Refurbishment works to play park |
| Site address | Peel Park, Kirkintilloch |
| Applicant | East Dunbartonshire Council |
| Determining Authority | Historic Environment Scotland (HES) |
| Local Authority Area | East Dunbartonshire 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 | 20 November 2019 |
| Date of recommendation | 04 December 2019 |
| Decision / recommendation | Clear |

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought by East Dunbartonshire Council for works to upgrade the existing play area at Peel Park in Kirkintilloch which is within the area designated as the Antonine Wall, Peel Park, Roman Fort and Medieval Castle Scheduled Monument which is of national importance.
- While the upper 50cm surface of the play area is excluded from the scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent is required for works which may require a greater depth of excavation within the scheduled area.
- The proposal is for the removal of existing play equipment under archaeological supervision; the installation of new play equipment to a maximum depth of 1.1m under archaeological supervision, with archaeological evaluation of all areas below 500mm; the planting of 4 trees to a depth of 750mm under archaeological supervision; and the installation of a finger post under archaeological supervision.

Consultations and Representations:

- The need to upgrade the play area has been the subject of discussions between Antonine Wall Heritage Lottery Fund Project and Historic Environment Scotland with pre-application discussions regarding the details of the design and possible mitigation measure required by HES.
- No representations were made during consideration of the application.

- PAD consulted the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) following notification. Their understanding is that the proposed revitalisation of Peel Play Park is being planned, executed and managed in a way that sets out to protect the historic environment and is intended to sensitively enhance the site, with any detrimental impact minimised. Taking this into account alongside HES's view of minimal negative impact on the cultural significance of the monument, CHED are content that the proposal doesn't raise any issues of national significance.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have notified Scottish Ministers of their intention to grant Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the proposed works. HES have concluded that the proposal is broadly consistent with relevant policy. However, the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument. Therefore, there was a requirement to notify Scottish Ministers as per The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015.
2. The scheduled monument is of national importance as a major Roman frontier system which has the potential to increase considerably our understanding of Roman frontier policy and military organisation. The Antonine Wall is also the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland. The fort is one of at least 18 Roman forts on the Antonine Wall military frontier, and is of particular importance because the interior of the fort has not been built upon. The medieval occupation of the site in the form of the castle is also of considerable importance.
3. HES have considered the application and have concluded that the proposed works would have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They consider the works to be sensitively designed, and properly planned and to be compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy and they consider that no conditions are considered necessary.
4. The Scottish Government Culture and Historic Environment Division are content that the proposal doesn't raise any issues of national significance.
5. The report of handling by HES sets out that the proposed works will have a significant community benefit, in upgrading a currently dilapidated play park, improving the appearance of the monument, providing a safe and educational place for children to play and raising the local profile and cultural significance of the remains of the Antonine Wall.
6. In summary, the 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 determine.

