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Contact: Andrew Robertson
Direct dial: 01620 827039
E Mail: arobertson1@eastlothian.gov.uk



Association of Local Government
Archaeological Officers: Scotland
c/o East Lothian Council
Archaeology Service
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

RE: Historic Environment Scotland Consultation 'Working on and near Scheduled Monuments'

Dear Sir/Madam

The Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers (ALGAO) represents the Local Government Archaeology Officers and teams across the UK. ALGAO: Scotland currently represents 28 of the 32 local authorities in Scotland with our geographical spread running from the Shetland Isles to the Scottish Borders.

With regards to the consultation on 'Working on or near Scheduled Monuments' ALGAO: Scotland broadly supports the aims and thrust of the document.

We would however make the following comments which in our opinion and experience would make some elements of the document clearer.

- It should be more explicitly noted that Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is a separate consent and regulatory process from Planning Permission, as at times this still causes a degree of confusion and a greater emphasis of this point would be beneficial. Accordingly, it would also be worth expanding upon and reinforcing the statement that some work may require both SMC and Planning permissions from the Local Planning Authority.
- We would also advise to check the statement that where an asset is both a listed structure and Scheduled Monument that SMC will generally only be required – this is not our understanding as the consent processes are completely separate.
- We would also suggest that the advice to obtain SMC prior to Planning Consent for complex cases is removed (penultimate para p14). Experience from our members

suggests that this can hinder a full assessment of the impacts of a development upon the wider Historic Environment. It is considered more appropriate to end the paragraph with "It is normally best to deal with both applications at the same time." as this will help avoid confusion between the consents processes.

- We would advise that that much greater emphasis is given to liaising and consulting with Local Authority Archaeology Officers (or equivalent) for works immediately outside a Scheduled Monument (SM). Work outside of the legal boundary of an SM falls under the purview of the Local Authority Archaeologist and not HES. The text of the document is not as clear as it could be in this aspect, particularly in relation to the 'buffers' around an SM.
- Finally please note that we recommend that prior to publication the contacts lists are double checked as some of the pages linked to are significantly out of date and have incorrect contact details listed (particularly the first one). Up to date details of ALGAO members can be found on our website www.algao.org.uk

ALGAO:Scotland is happy to discuss any of the points we have made and overall we are supportive of the document and welcome the use of clear English within the document which will help in understanding the processes of working on or near a Scheduled Monument.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Robertson
ALGAO: Scotland Chair
c/o East Lothian Council Archaeology Service
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA