

Roinn na Gaidhealtachd



Highland

SJTR
FILE

Department of Planning
Director
Richard W. G. Cameron
R.I.B.A., A.R.I.A.S., M.R.T.P.I.

Highland Regional Council
Regional Buildings
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness IV 3 5NX

Telephone 0463 234121
Telex 75313
Facsimile 0463 223201

Please ask for: Mr Patton

Struan Jno. T. Robertson,
Clerk to the Deacon's Court,
Dornoch Cathedral,
"Torrarroy",
DORNOCH,
Sutherland,
IV25 3HR.

Ext. no: 590

Our ref: SU/12/F/RP/AA

Your ref:

Date: 17th January, 1989.

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED TREE WORKS DORNOCH CATHEDRAL (CONSERVATION AREA)

I refer to the site meeting at the Cathedral last year attended by my colleague Mr Patton in respect of the above.

I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss the future management of the trees within the Cathedral and greatly welcome the Court's obvious desire to undertake any necessary works in a judicious manner. As you are aware, the Cathedral lies within the Dornoch Conservation Area and certain procedures are required to be met in respect of tree works. I will cover this aspect later.

I would confirm the points discussed as follows. The enclosed map shows the location of the various aspects discussed.

1. **Location A** (West door to South door)

I have no objection in principle to remedial works (crown lifting and thinning) being undertaken on these boundary trees. Previous lopping works have not been wholly satisfactory and the proposals would give an opportunity for these to be rectified to a degree. I would envisage limited works only so as not to take away from individual crown form and dominance. It is obviously important to achieve continuity between the trees.

As discussed, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to identify or detail the work prior to commencement. It is largely dependent on the contractor viewing the works as they proceed.

2. **Location B** (West door to North door)

Again, I would offer no objection in principle to the limited lifting and thinning of the crowns of these trees.

Your remarks on the density of the tree line when in leaf is appreciated. There would certainly be benefit, in terms of respacing the line and exhibiting individual tree form, in removing two of the trees. Obviously consultation would be required with interested parties over such a proposal.

REMOVE 2.

3. **Location C** (South door)

REPLACE 2.

I would suggest that perhaps the Hornbeam ('Fastigiata' variety) may outgrow their location adjacent to the gateway. Their replacement with one of the smaller growing and colourful Sorbus varieties may wish to be considered. I would suggest 'Joseph Rock' or commixta.

The hornbeam could be located along the eastward running boundary margin.

4. **Location D** (North door running East along High Street)

REMOVE 1.

Only one tree (a self sown sycamore) is located within the Cathedral grounds. This tree is located hard up against the boundary wall and will be subject to root pressure. I would recommend that this tree be removed at this time to avoid damage to the wall.

RE 5 I.

I also recall a sycamore sapling adjacent to a nearby headstone which would also be better removed.

As you will recall I am anxious to secure replacement planting along the High Street to augment the existing street planting. I have written to the Divisional Roads Engineer to enquire in to the feasibility of a planting scheme and, if so, if he would be able to contribute towards the cost. It is likely that this Department would also be able to contribute towards any scheme. Would your Court be interested in contributing towards the purchase of the trees? I would envisage the planting of five trees (see map for location) at a purchase cost of say £25 each. The earliest a scheme could be undertaken would be by the end of this year. I would be pleased to discuss this proposal further with you.

5. ~~Location E~~ (Monument area)

THESE ARE OUTWITH CATHEDRAL GROUNDS

I have written to the District Council to advise them of your comments on the growth of some of the trees taking away from the views of the Cathedral from the south. While I have no objection in principle to works being carried out on the mature trees, it is fair to say that the visual gain will not be significantly improved.

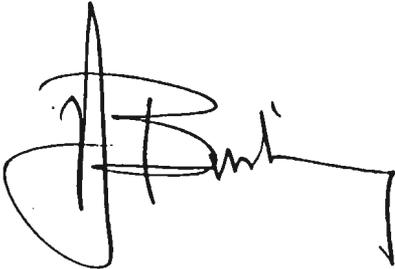
I will inform you of the District Council's response when received.

As I have indicated there are procedures to be followed covering tree works (including lopping and pruning) within a conservation area. Any person wishing to carry out tree works is required to give six weeks written notification of their proposals to the Planning Authority. Any notification will be considered with any necessary consultations being undertaken before replying. As I have already had an opportunity to view the site I would hope to be in a position to respond relatively quickly. A point of consideration is that previous tree works within the town have attracted the keen interest and on occasion, the concern of the local community. I would obviously wish for adequate consultation to be undertaken with the community interests, particularly with 2. above.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. If you wish to discuss any aspect further please do not hesitate to contact Mr Patton at the above extension number. While your colleague from the Forestry Commission is prepared to undertake and/or supervise certain works you may wish to employ a specialist arboriculturalist contactor also. I would be pleased to advise of suitable persons. It is obviously very important that a high degree of workmanship is employed.

Finally, I wish to apologise for the delay in response and apologise for any inconvenience caused to your Court.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. [unclear]', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Director.



Roinn na Gaidhealtachd



Highland

Department of Planning
Director
Richard W. G. Cameron
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Highland Regional Council
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Telephone 0463 234121
Telex 75313
Facsimile 0463 223201

Please ask for: Mr Patton
Ext. no: 590
Our ref: SU/12/F/RP/AA
Your ref:
Date: 3rd February, 1989.

Struan Jno. T. Robertson,
Clerk to the Deacon's Court,
Dornoch Cathedral,
"Torrarroy",
DORNOCH,
Sutherland,
IV25 3HR.

Dear Mr Robertson,

PROPOSED TREE WORKS DORNOCH CATHEDRAL (CONSERVATION AREA)

I refer to my previous letter of 17th January, 1989 and your letter of 22nd January addressed to my Divisional Planning Officer, Mr Polson, in respect of the above. Your letter has been passed to this office for response.

As indicated over the telephone yesterday, I would offer no objection to the proposals to undertake judicious crown thinning and lifting of the Cathedral trees, presumably at locations A and B as per my letter of 17th January. I would suggest the use of a wound sealant such as "Arbrex 805", "Tree 3" or similar. While there is presently debate as to the effectiveness of sealants in arboreal terms it is agreed that its use does no harm and is very useful in cosmetic terms.

Perhaps you would be kind enough to advise Mr Patton (who can be contacted at the above extension) of when the works are finished as I would wish him to look at the works. Have the Court considered any action over the two naturally seeded sycamore as discussed previously?

Perhaps you wish to consider these trees with the other discussed work at a later date as intimated in your letter.

Finally, I wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused by my delay in responding to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Director.

LEGIBLE
COPY

TORRAWROY

2/12/91.

CATHEDRAL TREE MANAGEMENT

Dear Mr Simpson,

Thank you indeed for the arboriculturalists' correspondence and map. These I have copied for my own use and return the originals herewith. Also enclosed is a copy of the Deacon's Court Sub-committee Structure updated to this day.

At last night's meeting the Moderator referred the matter of the Cathedral Tree Management to you and I. Perhaps we should meet at the Cathedral one clear day and visualize the trees in question, and get together over decision making. As four trees are advised for felling, and the two Hornbeams at the South-gate entrance should be moved further along the S-E wall towards "TREVOSE", we should have to look to both local attitude and pressure from the conservation authorities. Lacking the kind help of John Turner, it looks as though we shall have to take the arboriculturalists' advice and seek specialist arboriculturalist contractors further advice — which sounds like being expensive. So we have much to do.

Rhoda and I, at the drop of a telephone call now, will be whisking off to Neilston to stand by for Gail's delivery — so how about tomorrow?

Give me a phone and let me know

Yours sincerely

Struan

TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 1991

VISIT MR F. HAYWARD —

AGREED JON SWA. COMMITTEE ON
CATHEDRAL TREE MANAGEMENT

VOLUNTEERED TO WRITE DEPT OF PLANNING
INQUIRY ON THE MATTER.

SUTHERLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL



*With the Compliments of the
Director of Environmental Health*

**DISTRICT OFFICES,
THE MEADOWS,
DORNOCH,
SUTHERLAND IV25 3SG**

Telephone Dornoch 810491

MR HAYWARDS
LETTER TO
DEPT OF PLANNING
INVERNESS.

Mr. Keating

SU/12/F/RP/AA

11/11/91

3 December 1991

Department of Planning
Highland Regional Council
Regional Buildings
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Dear Sir

**PROPOSED TREE WORKS
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL (CONSERVATION AREA)**

The above matter was raised with you by the Clerk to the Deacons' Court, Dornoch Cathedral, in 1989 and Mr. Barrow made a visit and recommendations (your letter of 17 January 1989 refers).

The District Council now wish to carry out winter maintenance works to the trees as detailed on the accompanying map.

In terms of the Planning Regulations, I have to give six weeks' written notification to the Planning Authority of any proposals.

Naturally, as the responsible body, it is felt that a site visit by either Mr. Barrow or Mr. Paton would be beneficial in order to discuss the work proposed and to reach agreement on the work to be carried out. A suitable date for this office would be the week commencing Monday, 13 January 1992 and I look forward to hearing from you in order that the matter can be resolved.

Yours faithfully

Depute Director of Environmental Health

c.c. Clerk to the Deacons' Court, Dornoch Cathedral.



Department of Planning
Director
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Facsimile 0463 711969

Please ask for: Mr Patton

Director of Environmental Health,
Sutherland District Council,
The Meadows,
DORNOCH,
Sutherland,
IV25 3SG.

Ext. no: 590

Our ref: SU/12/F/RP/AA

Your ref: AK/JM/GM

Date: 11 December, 1991

Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED TREE WORKS
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL (CONSERVATION AREA)**

Thank you for your letter of 3rd December, 1991 notifying me of your Council's intention to undertake tree works at the Cathedral.

To discuss your proposals further, I would be pleased for my colleague Robert Patton to visit the site on Monday, 13th January as proposed. May I suggest meeting at 10.30am at the south gate (adjacent to the Monument) of the Cathedral. I would be grateful to receive your confirmation of this arrangement.

Yours faithfully,

Director.

C.C. Clerk to the Deacon's Court, Dornoch Cathedral, Dornoch, Sutherland.
Divisional Planning Officer, Sutherland.

① Telephoned MacIntyre to ensure he has the date and time.
② In event of our not being back in time? have to phone him from Glasgow and he will arrange a stand-in.
③ Letter to that effect to Mr Haywood at the Meadows of 14-12-91 date



Department of Planning
Director
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Telephone 0463 234121
Telex 75313
Facsimile 0463 711969

Please ask for: Mr Patton
Ext. no: 590
Our ref: SU/12/F/RP/AA
Your ref:
Date: 20 January, 1992

Director of Environmental Health,
Sutherland District Council,
The Meadows,
DORNOCH,
Sutherland, IV25 3SG.

Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED TREE WORKS
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL AND VILLAGE GREEN (CONSERVATION AREA)**

I refer to the meeting of 13th January, 1992 attended by your Mr Keating, representatives of the Church and the Forestry Commission and my colleague Mr Patton in respect of the above. I am in receipt of a copy of your letter to the Community Council.

At the meeting the Church and your Mr Keating identified a range of work as follows;

1. Cathedral Grounds

1.1 Concern was expressed by the Church representatives that the trees running along the boundaries from the south gate to the west gate and the north gate and the west gate respectively, were obscuring the building. It is therefore proposed to remove three trees (see enclosed plan) to improve visibility and allow respacement of the trees. The tree on the south boundary has a slight lean towards the road.

1.2 The remaining trees are to receive minor crown thinning and lifting as appropriate. This work is to be undertaken by a component arboriculturist. See 2.1 below.

1.3 A coppicing sycamore stump (see enclosed plan) is running the risk of pushing out the boundary retaining wall. It is proposed to chemically treat the stump to halt the regrowth.

1.4 There are a number of smaller coppicing sycamore adjacent to lairs. It is proposed to cut these back and chemically treat the stumps.

2. Village Green (Monument)

2.1 The District Council propose to undertake crown thinning and lifting of the trees. Importantly, working practice was to move away from the previous method of simply radically cutting back to form "knuckles". Instead, the outer growth of the crowns is to be largely retained by way of judicious crown thinning. It is proposed that any work will be carried out by a component arboriculturist. As requested, I enclose details of two suitable contractors.

3. High Street Trees

3.1 Maintenance, as required of the recent street planting.

3.2 Minimal reshaping of the older trees.

As part of the notification procedure required to be undertaken with the Planning Authority (in terms of the Conservation Area Legislation), Mr Patton requested that an opportunity be taken to seek the comments of the Community Council and the District Councillor. This is in recognition of the sensitive nature of the proposals identified in 1.1 above. I also wished to seek the comments of Councillor Colonel Sir Allan Gilmour as the Regional Member.

I feel your letter places this consultation as a courtesy measure only. However, I would wish an opportunity to allow full discussion of any comments that may be raised. I feel this would only be proper in view of the high sensitivity of the area.

In this regard I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from a Mr J. Grant of Bridge Street for your advice and comment. I have acknowledged his letter.

I will forward Colonel Gilmour's comments when received.

Yours faithfully,



Director.

Enc.

C.C. Councillor Col. Sir Allan Gilmour, Invernauld, Rosehall, Lairg,
IV27 4EU.
Mr Allan Ewan, Secretary of Dornoch Community Council, West Deanery,
Castle Street, Dornoch.
Rev. James Simpson, Cathedral Manse, Dornoch.
District Councillor Mrs S. Board, Fourpenny, Skelbo, Dornoch.
District Councillor D. Shepherd, Rosemount Cottage, Clashmore, Dornoch.

APPENDIX

ARBOREICULTURAL CONTRACTORS

Arbor Services (Neil Valentine),
North View,
Cullicudden,
Balblair,
Culbokie.

North East Tree Services (Mike Sedgwick),
8 St. Andrew's Square,
Pinefield,
Elgin,
IV30 3JX.

Planning Officer
Highland Reg. Council

Tigh-an-Allt
Bridge Street
Dornoch

10 JAN 1992

15-1-92

CS What's the situation?

Dear Sir

RS

I believe there is a scheme contemplated to remove the trees on the North side of Dornoch Cathedral. This is in a conservation area of Dornoch and if this is permitted to proceed it is quite obvious that it is only the preliminary to getting all the trees around the Cathedral removed.

What is the purpose of having a Conservation Area in the Burgh if it does not provide any protection for the trees

2
right in the centre of the Burgh?

A few years ago a man was taken to court and fined for cutting branches off trees in the Station Wood in which there is a Preservation Order so I hope the official vandalism at the Cathedral is not allowed to proceed any further.

Yours faithfully

J Grant



Department of Planning
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The Meadows,
DORNOCH,
Sutherland,
IV25 3SG.

Ext. no: 590

Our ref: SU/12/F/RP/AA

Your ref: AK/EM/GM

Date: 23 January, 1992

Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED TREE WORKS
DORNOCH CATHEDRAL AND VILLAGE GREEN (CONSERVATION AREA)**

I refer to my letter of 20th January, 1992 in respect of the above.

I have been contacted today by Councillor Shepherd over the proposals as identified in my letter. Whilst the matter was raised at the last Community Council meeting he considers that the Council, at that time, were not in possession of the full facts behind the proposals. He therefore wishes the matter referred back to the Community Council for further discussion and comment. I will be grateful for this to be put in hand please.

Yours faithfully,



Director.

C.C. Rev. James Simpson, Cathedral Manse, Dornoch.
Mr Allan Ewan, Secretary of Dornoch Community Council, West Deanery,
Castle Street, Dornoch.
District Councillor D. Shepherd, Rosemount Cottage, Clashmore, Dornoch.
District Councillor Mrs S. Board, Fourpenny, Skelbo, Dornoch.
Councillor Col. Sir Allan Gilmour, Invernauld, Rosehall, Lairg,
IV27 4EU.
Divisional Planning Officer, Sutherland. (Enclosure).

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1992

Visited Forestry H/2. Embo Street
Saw Mr Peter Boucher re
cutting of Cathedral trees.

ACTION NEXT THURSDAY
AFTERNOON 20th FEBRUARY.

Will try deliver cut wood
to Cathedral Manse,
by trailer — if not
I shall have to stand by
with my own trailer in
lieu.



copy
with
notes

Department of Planning
Director
Richard W. G. Cameron
R.I.B.A., A.R.I.A.S., M.R.T.P.I.

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Dear Sir,

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I refer to the site meeting at the Cathedral last year attended by my colleague Mr Patton in respect of the above.

I was grateful for the opportunity to discuss the future management of the trees within the Cathedral and greatly welcome the Court's obvious desire to undertake any necessary works in a judicious manner. As you are aware, the Cathedral lies within the Dornoch Conservation Area and certain procedures are required to be met in respect of tree works. I will cover this aspect later.

I would confirm the points discussed as follows. The enclosed map shows the location of the various aspects discussed.

1. Location A (West door to South door)

I have no objection in principle to remedial works (crown lifting and thinning) being undertaken on these boundary trees. Previous lopping works have not been wholly satisfactory and the proposals would give an opportunity for these to be rectified to a degree. I would envisage limited works only so as not to take away from individual crown form and dominance. It is obviously important to achieve continuity between the trees.

4th tree
from
south door
taken out.
Remainder
thinned.

As discussed, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to identify or detail the work prior to commencement. It is largely dependent on the contractor viewing the works as they proceed.

2. Location B (West door to North door)

Again, I would offer no objection in principle to the limited lifting and thinning of the crowns of these trees.

3rd & 5th
trees from
west side
to be removed.
Limited thinning
to take place.

Your remarks on the density of the tree line when in leaf is appreciated. There would certainly be benefit, in terms of respacing the line and exhibiting individual tree form, in removing two of the trees. Obviously consultation would be required with interested parties over such a proposal.

Copy of 1st letter
with notes on leaf
(RGP)

3. Location C (South door)

I would suggest that perhaps the Hornbeam ('Fastigiata' variety) may outgrow their location adjacent to the gateway. Their replacement with one of the smaller growing and colourful Sorbus varieties may wish to be considered. I would suggest 'Joseph Rock' or commixta.

The hornbeam could be located along the eastward running boundary margin.

4. Location D (North door running East along High Street)

Only one tree (a self sown sycamore) is located within the Cathedral grounds. This tree is located hard up against the boundary wall and will be subject to root pressure. I would recommend that this tree be removed at this time to avoid damage to the wall.

*Already
down. Stump
growth to be
trimmed &
reseed.*

I also recall a sycamore sapling adjacent to a nearby headstone which would also be better removed.

*To be
removed.*

As you will recall I am anxious to secure replacement planting along the High Street to augment the existing street planting. I have written to the Divisional Roads Engineer to enquire in to the feasibility of a planting scheme and, if so, if he would be able to contribute towards the cost. It is likely that this Department would also be able to contribute towards any scheme. Would your Court be interested in contributing towards the purchase of the trees? I would envisage the planting of five trees (see map for location) at a purchase cost of say £25 each. The earliest a scheme could be undertaken would be by the end of this year. I would be pleased to discuss this proposal further with you.

*Trees
have
been
planted.*

5. Location E (Monument area)

I have written to the District Council to advise them of your comments on the growth of some of the trees taking away from the views of the Cathedral from the south. While I have no objection in principle to works being carried out on the mature trees, it is fair to say that the visual gain will not be significantly improved.

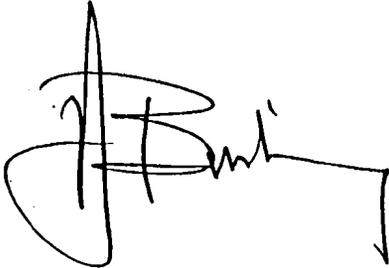
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I look forward to hearing from you in due course. If you wish to discuss any aspect further please do not hesitate to contact Mr Patton at the above extension number. While your colleague from the Forestry Commission is prepared to undertake and/or supervise certain works you may wish to employ a specialist arboriculturalist contactor also. I would be pleased to advise of suitable persons. It is obviously very important that a high degree of workmanship is employed.

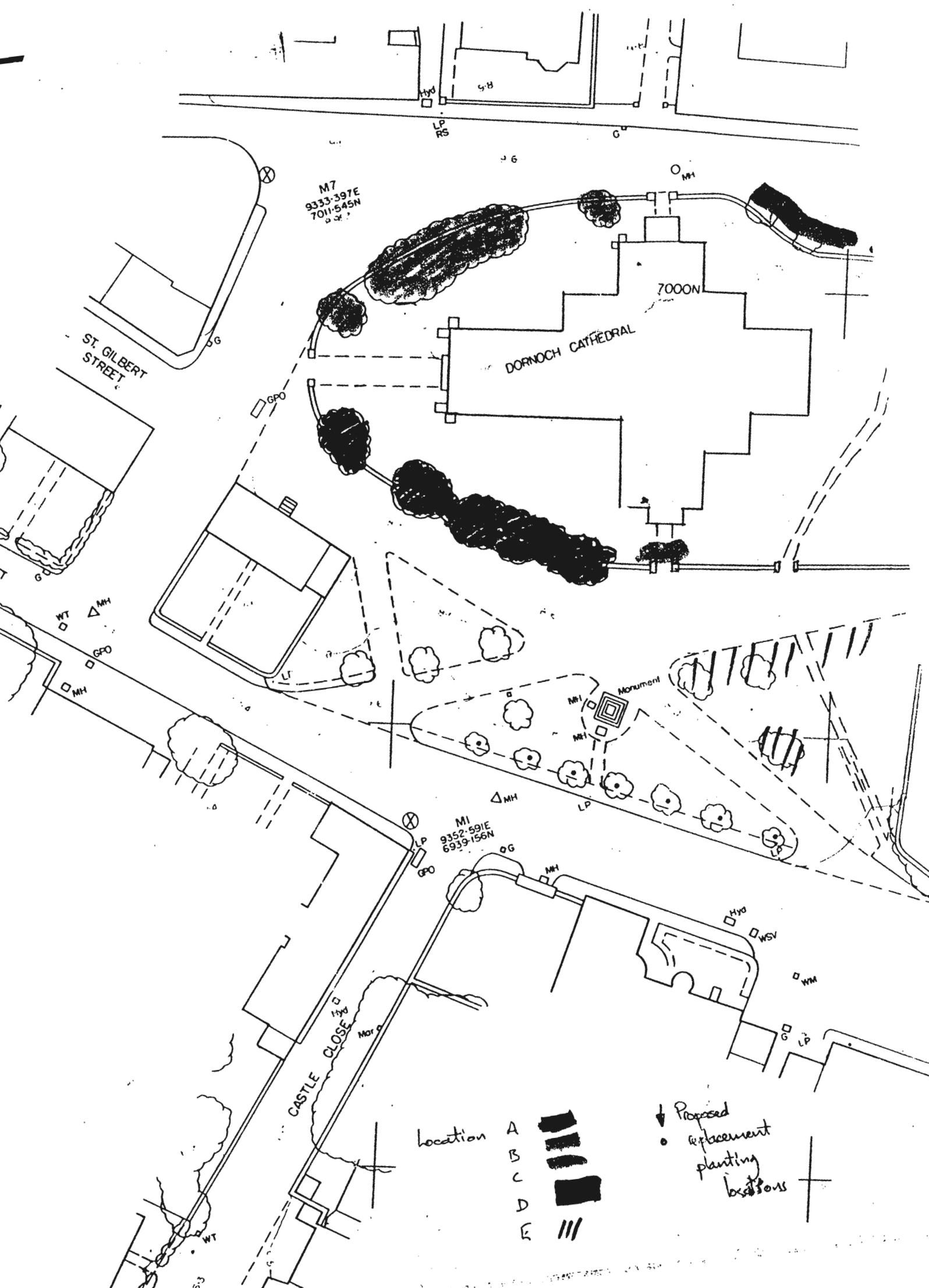
Finally, I wish to apologise for the delay in response and apologise for any inconvenience caused to your Court.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. Smith', written over a large, faint circular stamp.

Director.





M7
9333-597E
7011-545N

M1
9352-591E
6939-156N

ST. GILBERT STREET

DORNOCH CATHEDRAL

CASTLE CLOSE

Monument

location

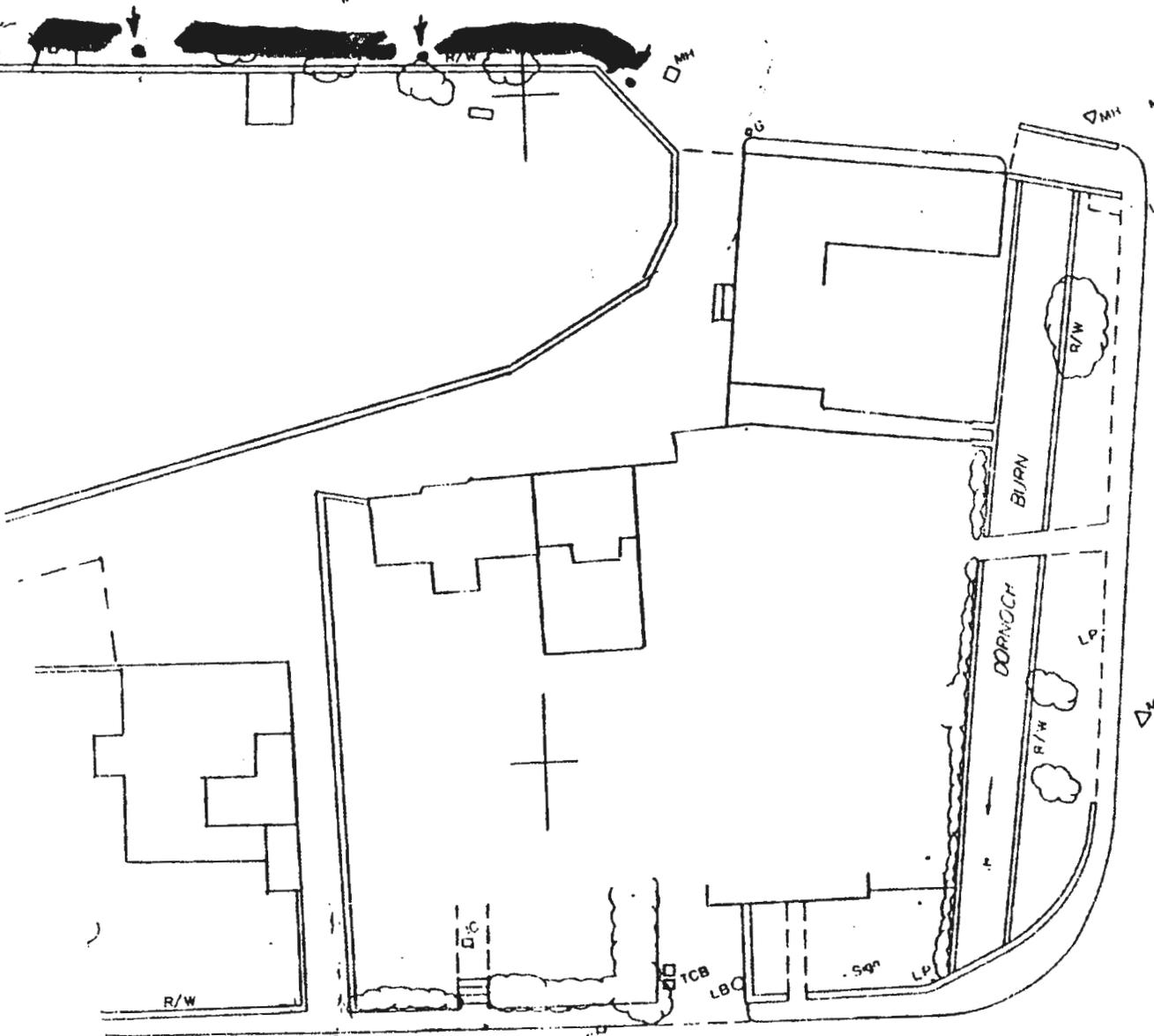
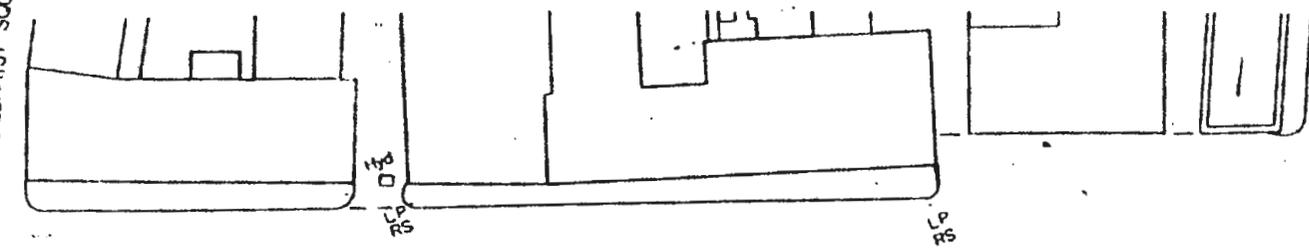
- A [Solid black rectangle]
- B [Horizontal hatching]
- C [Vertical hatching]
- D [Diagonal hatching]
- E [Three parallel diagonal lines]

Proposed
replacement
planting
locations

SQUARE

95006

□ HIGH STREET



BRIDGE STREET

BRIDGE STREET

DORNOCH SQUARE



△ MH

△ MH

△ MH