

## Case information

<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201504264		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	St Kilda Village and related structures		
<b>Index no</b>	M2276	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NF010994 1000.0000 899400.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	08 October 2015	<b>Application Received</b>	08 October 2015
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Replacement of nine fuel tanks		

### 1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the replacement of the existing fuel tanks which play a key role in providing power to St Kilda. Although the fuel tanks are excluded from the scheduling, the ground on which the proposed crane is, and therefore the works come under 'erection of temporary installations' which requires SMC. The impact to the monument of the proposed works is considered minimal and appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place. The proposed works are also justified against national policy.

### 2. Background

The monument contains the abandoned remains of several millennia of farming, which came to an abrupt end in the middle of the twentieth century, when the island was abandoned. The remains therefore represent a relict farming system and settlement pattern which has then been overrun by natural processes. Its abandoned and natural qualities are also key to the island's dual World Heritage Site designation, for both natural and cultural purposes.

The works are necessary for the running of the infrastructure on the island, and are therefore crucial to the monument and WHS' overall management. HES have had pre-application discussions with the applicant and NTS, the sites owners and managers, and are satisfied that any significant impacts to the monument have been identified and mitigated.

### 3. Proposals

The proposals cover all of the nine fuel tanks in total: three of them are proposed to be replaced on 26 October 2015, with the remainder to be replaced in early 2016. A temporary

crane will be positioned on the road to the north of the fuel tanks (see Fig 3). The applicant will protect the scheduled area of the monument by using protective material and timber battens underneath the crane stabilisation outriggers. The crane will also be positioned so that the removal of any stones is not necessary. The application includes the temporary erecting of fencing proposed to prevent livestock entering the works area.

## **4. Representations received**

---

No representations were received.

## **5. Report**

---

### **1. Policy considerations**

#### **The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2011)**

3.16. Works on scheduled monuments should therefore normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

3.19. Extensive intervention will only be allowed where it is clearly necessary to secure the longer-term preservation of the monument, or where it will clearly generate public benefits of national importance which outweigh the impact on the national cultural significance of the monument. Such public benefits could come from, for example, interventions which make public access to scheduled monuments easier, or assist public understanding, or will produce economic benefits once the works are completed.

3.20. Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

### **2. Assessment**

The replacement of the fuel tanks is necessary for the functioning of St Kilda. There are therefore considerably public benefits, not least as this facilitates the management of the island's heritage.

The fuel tanks are located within an area of made up ground and this is not considered to be archaeologically sensitive. Any impacts on the historic fabric of the monument from the positioning of the crane and the temporary fencing will be minor; the mitigation measures should minimise this potential impact even further. The works have therefore been well considered.

### **3. Other material considerations, including impact of the works on Protected Species and Places**

None. SNH have confirmed that they are content that the proposed works will not have a significant impact on the SSSI or natural heritage qualities of the WHS.

#### 4. Conclusion

The proposed works are compliant with Section 3.16 of the SHEP in that they are the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. The works will have added on public benefits and have been carefully considered in order to mitigate any impacts. The works are therefore equally compliant with 3.19 and 3.20 of SHEP.

However, there are no proposals to record or monitor any resulting impacts, a related condition has therefore been recommended.

#### 6. Recommended decision

---

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

#### 7. Conditions

---

1. Two weeks after completion of the works on site, the applicant will provide photographs of the work area, before, during and after the works, to Historic Environment Scotland.

*Reason: To ensure that an accurate record of works to the monument is maintained.*

#### 8. Approval

---

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Nicola Hall</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>22/10/2015</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>John Raven</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>22/10/2015</b>

## **Annex A – list of supporting documents**

1. St Kilda Fuel Tank Replacement Detail in support of Schedule Monument Consent Version 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015
2. Additional Method Statement