

## BALVAIRD CASTLE – ARMORIAL PANELS

A condition survey on these panels was carried out in 2012 by Christa Gerdwilkner which I have attached onto this report as it covers the relevant conservation issues of the panels .

The panels have deteriorated from the last survey , with loss of material occurring mostly on the lower panel , but with some evidence of loss on the top panel also , the middle panel seems much the same as in 2012 but looks like it might lose a substantial piece from the centre in the near future .

### Top Panel –



2012

fig:1



2015

fig:2

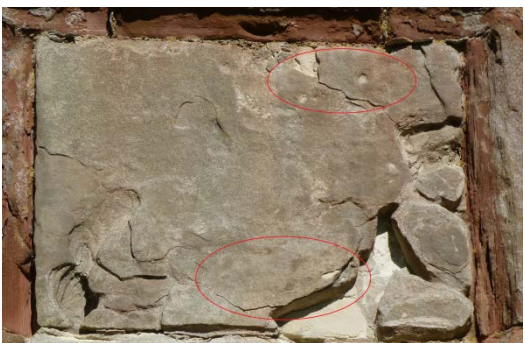
The loss of material on this panel seems to be mainly on the left hand side , at the bottom corner and mid-way up the panel . Some of the delaminated edges have opened slightly and there is evidence of some open fractures on the surrounding moulding .

### Centre Panel –



2012

fig:3



2015

fig:4

There does not seem to be any significant loss of materials on this panel since 2012 , but the areas highlighted in red circles on the 2015 picture above are of most concern.(fig:4) These two areas have fissures which are open and will allow moisture in over the winter months especially, with freeze thaw action this might result in more loss of material come springtime .Again here the surrounding moulding is showing more signs of delamination .

#### Lower Panel-



2012

fig:5



2015

fig:6

This panel shows most signs of loss of material as you can see from the pictures above . This loss of materials has left an open edge which again will let in moisture especially over the winter months . The central parts of this panel look extremely fragile and more loss of material will occur if left untreated .

#### Conclusion and Recommended Treatment

In line with the 2012 report and conclusion, long term conservation of these panels , taking into consideration the use of an alkoxy silane could be problematic. However we can hopefully slow down the further deterioration of the panels by injecting behind the laminating sections with a solution of Paraloid B72 at 5% to try and stabilise the substrate and then edge point the laminated sections with a colour matched acrylic mortar . Again it must be pointed out that this will work on a short term bases but due to the condition of the substrate will only stabilise the panels for a limited time .

These repairs should be carried out as soon as possible , preferably before the onset of heavy frosts and inclement weather .

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