

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201506782		
Scheduled Monument	Newark Castle & dovecot		
Index no	M866	Grid Ref	NO518012 351800.0000 701200.0000
Date of Application	27 January 2016	Application Received	29 January 2016
Summary of proposed works	Repairs to failing areas of internal roof vault of dovecot (Retrospective)		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends retrospective consent should be granted.

2. Background

Newark Castle and dovecot is a complex multi-phase site, located on a coastal promontory to the south west of St Monans. The site had a long history of occupation and alteration from the 15th to the 19th century. The dovecot is believed to date from the 16th century. Dovecots were a useful source of fresh meat throughout the year, while the pigeons' droppings were a valuable source of fertiliser and chemicals used in tanning and dyeing. Dovecots were also status symbols with ownership controlled by a number of strict laws and restricted to the landed gentry and ecclesiastical establishments.

The works covered by this application were carried out in February 2015. Enforcement action was undertaken in November 2015 with a recommendation that retrospective consent should be sought for the works

3. Proposals

Consented Works:

Repairs to failing areas of internal roof vault of dovecot using natural stone and lime based mortar.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be viewed with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: Part 1 2 Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

(1) If any person executes or causes or permits to be executed any works to which this section applies he shall be guilty of an offence unless the works are authorised under this Part of the Act.

(2) This section applies to any of the following works, that is to say –

(a) any works resulting in the demolition or destruction of or any damage to a scheduled monument;

(b) any works for the purpose of removing or repairing a scheduled monument or any part of it or of making any alterations or additions thereto;

(c) any flooding or tipping operations on land in, on or under which there is a scheduled monument.

3) Without prejudice to any other authority to execute works conferred under this Part of this Act, works to which this section applies are authorised under this Part of this Act if –

(a) the Secretary of State has granted written consent (referred to below in this Act as “scheduled monument consent”) for the execution of works

(b) the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

SHEP

3.4. Scheduled monument consent is required for any works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to the monument or to carry out any flooding or tipping on the monument. It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

3.15. Monuments are subject to decay and the threat of destruction, from natural and human causes. Conservation work is normally needed to prolong the life of a monument, but there is a risk that this can be so invasive that it irreversibly modifies the monument’s character and affects the special interest or features that made the monument important in the first place.

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.

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

3.18. Scheduled monument consent applications must be considered in terms of the cultural significance of the monument and the impact that the proposals would have upon this cultural significance. The more important particular features of the monument are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.

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.

b) Assessment

The works carried out were limited to a small area of the interior of the vaulted ceiling of the dovecot, which had been revealed by the collapse of a false ceiling installed decades earlier. A site inspection by Historic Scotland in November 2015 noted that the areas affected were not extensive and that appropriate materials appeared to have been used.

c) Other material considerations, including impact of the works on Protected Species and Places

None

d) Conclusion

The site inspection conducted by Historic Scotland staff in November 2015 records that the works appear to have been limited to the minimum intervention necessary to conserve the cultural significance of the monument. This is supported by the information provided by the applicant. I am therefore content that the works comply with section 3.16 of SHEP.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I recommend retrospective consent is **granted**.

7. Conditions

None.

8. Approval

Officer	Deirdre Cameron	Date	21/03/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	22/03/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location map
- Photographs showing sections of monument where works were undertaken.