

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201508154		
Scheduled Monument	Cladh Chiarain, burial ground and standing stone, Camas nan Geall		
Index no	M7783	Grid Ref	NM560618 156000.0000 761800.0000
Date of Application	27 March 2016	Application Received	29 March 2016
Summary of proposed works	Replacement fencing.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval, with out conditions, for replacement fencing.

2. Background

The monument comprises a medieval or post-medieval burial ground which includes a number of eighteenth-century grave stones which are enclosed by a stone wall, and a 2.3m high Neolithic or Early Bronze Age standing stone located to the SW.

The applicant approached HES previously to discuss repairing the fence. This was in order to better protect the monument from sheep who had damaged the surrounding wall and were threatening to damage grave stones. We advised that we would be likely to be content with the principle of a replacement like for like fence.

The applicant is part of the Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology. They have been working with Archaeology Scotland under their 'Adopt A Monument' scheme to improve the condition of this monument, as well as its neighboring site Cladh Chiarain chambered cairn 80m NNE of (Index No. 6180). As part of this, the overgrown vegetation has been removed.

3. Proposals

The proposed works comprise the like for like replacement of an existing fence which has now fallen down, and the replacement of the galvanised iron wire. The works comprise the removal of the existing wire and stobs. Most of these stobs are loose, but if any are set firmly into the ground, they will be cut off at ground level, with any new stobs placed in existing holes.

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:

Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2011)

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.

3.14. Scottish Ministers include a monument in the Schedule to secure the long-term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, *in situ* and as far as possible in the state it has come down to us. Scheduled monuments have an intrinsic value as monuments, not related to any concept of active use. It is the value of the monument to the nation's heritage, in terms set out in the section on Scheduling in Chapter 2 of SHEP that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

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.

3.20. 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 proposed works would have a positive impact on the monument as it will prevent potential damage from livestock. They would also have a minimal impact on the fabric of the monument because the gate and existing strainers are in good condition and will be retained, and the like for like replacement of the existing fence follows the existing line of the fence, using existing holes.

The proposed works would have minimal effect on the cultural significance of the monument and will benefit its long term management. It is concluded that they are compliant with Sections 3.14, 3.16 and 3.18 of SHEP. As the works appear to have been carefully considered and planned, they are also equally compliant with Section 3.20 of SHEP.

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

None.

d) Conclusion

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

6. Recommended decision

I recommend that consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	Nicola Hall	Date	06/05/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	09/05/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Plan of site
- Photographs