

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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Case information

Reference/Case ID	201508232		
Scheduled Monument	Hackness, Battery and Martello Tower		
Index no	M90211	Grid Ref	ND338914 333800.0000 991200.0000
Date of Application	07 April 2016	Application Received	07 April 2016
Summary of proposed works	The relocation of signage in the car park.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the relocation of signage in the car park.

2. Background

The monument comprises a well-built and well-preserved 19th-century coastal battery and an equally well-preserved martello tower. It is located on the coast at the Point of Hackness to guard the anchorage in Longhope Sound against attacks by American privateers.

As well as being scheduled, the monument is a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers.

The applicant discussed the proposals and engaged in pre-application discussions during the Annual Monument Audit of May 2015 and in February and March of 2016. The board forms part of a wider scheme of interpretation replacement at Historic Environment Scotland properties by the Interpretation Unit to replace outdated and faded signage, and address gaps in on-site interpretation.

3. Proposals

The proposed works comprise the removal of the existing signage and relocating it approximately 2m away. The existing sign currently presents a health and safety issue as it gets hit by vehicular traffic; the relocation of the sign would address this

The existing post would be cut off at ground level and left *in situ*. The proposed new post and sign would be located 2m away and would involve ground disturbance for a concrete foundation of 450mm square and 460mm deep.

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.

3.19. 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 proposals would have a minimal impact on the fabric and the cultural significance of the monument.

The proposed removal of the existing sign would not involve ground disturbance, as it would be cut off at ground level and left *in situ*.

The proposed new post and sign would be located 2m away. It would involve ground disturbance for a concrete foundation of 450mm square and 460mm deep. Although no significant archaeological remains have been found to date in the vicinity of the tower, there remains the potential for remains to be discovered - potentially of the now lost bank surrounding the platform. In light of this, a Written Scheme of Investigation is included with the application. This includes the provision for stopping the works should any remains be uncovered, and discussion with Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate as to an alternative location for the sign.

The proposed new sign would be of matching design to that being removed and located just 2m away to the existing location. Therefore, the proposed works would not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the monument.

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

There will not be any significant impacts on Protected Species and Places.

The monument is a Property in the Care which is operated by Historic Environment Scotland as a visitor attraction.

d) Conclusion

In conclusion, provided the WSI is adhered to, the proposed works should have limited archaeological or visual impact upon the monument's cultural significance. They do not, therefore, conflict with Section 3.16 of SHEP. The works have also been carefully considered in order to mitigate any physical and visual impacts, meaning that they are also compliant with Section 3.20 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 therefore recommend that consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	Nicola Hall	Date	31/05/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	31/05/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Drawing: Scheduled area plan (14 December 1999)
Drawing: Panel location plan (Number GMP/ORK/17)
Drawing: Construction details (A4 Sheet)
Photos: Previous and proposed (On two A4 sheets)
Document: Written Scheme of Investigation (11 January 2016)