



Case information

Reference/Case ID	201600638		
Scheduled Monument	Corgarff Castle		
Index no	M90080	Grid Ref	NJ254086 325400.0000 808600.0000
Date of Application	06 May 2016	Application Received	06 May 2016
Summary of proposed works	Re-harling of the outer faces of the defensive curtain walls and the bedding of new copes		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the re-harling of the outer faces of the defensive curtain walls and the bedding of new copes at Corgarff Castle be granted without conditions.

2. Background

The monument comprises a mid-16th century tower house of four storeys in height with single storey wings at either end, converted into a military barracks in the 18th century. Surrounding the castle is a rectangular curtain wall with a triangular salient on each face; the wall is looped for muskets.

The curtain wall and the low wings at each end of the tower were added to the castle in the mid-18th century, when Government troops were stationed at the castle following the 1745 uprising. The castle occupies the site of an earlier tower, destroyed in 1581. The earlier tower was also enclosed within a perimeter wall, which also contained other buildings. Remains of these earlier buildings may be expected to survive as archaeological deposits below ground level.

It is the curtain wall that is the subject of this application. Major consolidation took place in the 1960s, which included the renewal of the coping stones on top of the curtain wall, and between 2003 and 2006 the curtain wall and castle exterior were reharled. This harling promptly failed due to water penetration from delaminating 1960s copes and frost damage, and was removed in 2007. In 2010, reharling using a refined lime mix commenced on the outer face of the west and south curtain wall, and the 1960s copes were replaced at this time. This application is to complete the

reharling and renewal of copes, this time on the north and east outer faces of the curtain wall.

The monument is cared for by HES Conservation Directorate and is operated as a visitor attraction. The applicant has provided an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed works, which sets out that an annotated photographic record will be made of the curtain walls prior to the harling being applied, with particular emphasis being placed on the interface between historic and post-1960s work so that the sensitivity of the monument can be better understood during future conservation works.

3. Proposals

Consented works – Re-harling of the outer faces of the defensive curtain walls and the bedding of new copes

The proposals comprise:

- Re-harling of the outer faces of the north and east curtain walls using a lime mix specifically developed and tested to withstand the conditions at Corgarff Castle, as used on the most recent reharling to date.
- Removal of 1960s copes, and renewal on a like-for-like basis.

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:

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Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

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

Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland Have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

Part 1 Section 2 (4) – allows consent to be granted with conditions.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016 (the policy statement)

3.14. A monument is included 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 this policy statement, which 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. (Annex 1 sets out guidance as to how cultural significance and national importance should be determined).

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects (see Note 3.10); and,
- i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

b) Assessment

The works involve the re-harling of the outer faces of the defensive curtain walls using a suitable lime based mix, and the bedding of new copes.

The physical impact of these works on the monument will be comparatively minor; the curtain wall has been consolidated in the 1960s and had been harled in the mid-2000s before this harl was removed in 2007. Whilst the differing build qualities can currently be seen (and this adds interest and understanding to the conservation history of the monument), the curtain wall has historically been harled and as such the harling very much adds to the contemporary aesthetic significance of the castle.

Retaining and reinstating harling is important for both protecting the masonry from the harsh climatic conditions at Corgarff and for maintaining an understanding of the site and its function. The harling forms part of the cultural significance of the monument, and therefore the works can be considered the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving that cultural significance.

The works to renew the copes on the wall head will not impact on the significance of the masonry below, as the existing copes have been rebbed on a number of occasions since their installation in the 1960s. The application is therefore compliant with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The applicant has confirmed the lime based harl mix to be used, and this is considered suitable based on its usage in the most recent reharling works. No changes to the masonry of the wall are required (ie no additional pinnings). An annotated photographic record will be made of the curtain walls prior to the harling being applied, with particular emphasis being placed on the interface between historic and post-1960s work so that the sensitivity of the monument can be better understood during future conservation works. Given this approach to works, the application is considered compliant with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement, and this enables paragraph 3.22 of the policy statement to be met without the need for any conditions.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement.

The application, comprising the re-harling of the outer faces of the defensive curtain walls using a suitable lime based mix and the bedding of new copes, is the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in this scheduled monument. The works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that their impact on the fabric of the monument is minor but they have a positive contribution towards the cultural significance of the monument, and as such the application is compliant with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 which demonstrates that the works are carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

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 consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

None.

8. Approval

Officer	Oliver Lewis	Date	28/06/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	30/06/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location drawing – 423/080/127.
- Illustrated supporting paper.
- Email from Mike Pendery to Oliver Lewis dated 14 June 2016 providing details of mortar mix and approach to works, and containing an archaeological impact assessment.
- Archaeological impact assessment dated 06 June 2016.