



Case information

Reference/Case ID	201601957		
Scheduled Monument	Fort Charlotte, Lerwick		
Index no	M90145	Grid Ref	HU475415 447500.0000 1141500.0000
Date of Application	12 July 2016	Application Received	12 July 2016
Summary of proposed works	Tramping, grouting and resetting loose stones on East Wall		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval **without conditions**.

2. Background

Fort Charlotte lies near the centre of Lerwick, Shetland. The monument comprises the well-preserved remains of an 18th century artillery fortification which incorporates an earlier 17th century fort built during the Dutch Wars. It is roughly pentagonal in shape with a zig-zagging curtain wall to the east and bastions on each corner with a further bastion projecting from the western wall.

Within the monument, the majority of the buildings of the 18th century fort survive. This includes the 'West Pile', originally a barracks and offices, and the 'North Pile' which contained the commanding officers apartment, stores, barracks, and the officers' kitchen and mess. The main gate is to the west, with secondary gates in the north and south walls. Today, some of the buildings are used by HES and others by the Territorial Army.

The monument is significant due to its near-complete preservation, its association with a turbulent period of European history, and its incorporation of earlier features. In terms of setting, the views from the fort across the Sound of Bressay are key to understanding its function. The monument is a highly prominent landmark from within Lerwick, particularly from the east where its curtain wall towers above a busy road and the Bressay Ferry terminal. This key eastern view is also highly important from Bressay itself and from vessels traversing the Sound.

There were no pre-application discussions. The applicant provided further information about the repair methodology upon request.

3. Proposals

The proposed works would be to the southern half of the east curtain wall and the south east bastion. They are comprised of remedial work to the mortar on the wall which would involve raking out cracks, tamping, grouting and re-bedding loose wall-head stones. This is intended to repair cracks caused by subsidence which was resolved through underpinning in 2007.

The works would be undertaken in isolated areas where there is failed cement and early conservation mortars as well as open cracks. Repairs will take place in locations along the wallheads, on the internal and external faces, and in the gun embrasures.

The specific methodology to be used is:

- Otterbein NHL3.5 and Rothes Glen concrete sand be used for all mortars.
- Loose stonework would be removed by hand and re-bedded.
- Mortar would be left coarsely finished to catch dirt and create shadows to allow to it to blend in better with the existing mortar.
- Mortars would be attended during the curing process to ensure even curing.

Where there are cavities:

- Failed cement and earlier conservation mortars would be raked out by hand, and the revealed cavities flushed with water.
- The voids would then be tamped leaving holes to allow for grouting.
- Grouting would be undertaken by hand using a variety of lime and mortar mixes depending on what consistency is required for the grouting in each case
- Grouting would be poured in stages to allow for curing throughout

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

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

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016)

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. 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, that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument 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.

3.20. 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 are needed to ensure the conservation of the monument, as they are intrinsic to preserving the structure of the east bastion. The mortars which will be removed are cement or early conservation lime mortars and so the works should not remove or damage historic fabrics. The works will be undertaken accorded to a clear and appropriate methodology, and craftspeople will be on hand to ensure proper curing of the mortar. The works will be targeted to isolated failures to the existing mortar and cracks. The proposals would therefore have little potential to damage the historic fabric

of the moment, are the minimum necessary, and are required for the monument's conservation.

The historic mortar should not differ greatly in appearance to that which is on the monument presently and it would be applied in such a way as to allow it to blend in with existing fabric as much as possible. It should therefore not be visible apart from upon close inspection so it will not change the visual character of the monument.

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

The application site does not lie in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area. National Biodiversity Network GIS data sets indicate no evidence for Protected Species in the relevant 100m grid squares.

d) Conclusion

The works are required to maintain the physical fabric of the monument. They are the minimum required and will be undertaken according to an appropriate methodology.

The proposals should have minimal effect on the character and physical fabric of the monument. Hence the cultural significance of the monument would not be materially affected and the proposals are not be inconsistent with paragraph 3.14 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

6. Recommended decision

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

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

Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	Kevin Grant	Date	26/07/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	27/07/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location Plan (Drawing 567-145-272)
- Illustrative photos