Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201601486

Scheduled Monument	Peekie Bridge,bridge over Kerly Water 50m E of Peekie Mill		
Index no	M880	**Grid Ref**	NO560126 356000.0000 712600.0000

Date of Application	15 June 2016	**Application Received**	17 June 2016
Summary of proposed works	Repair of washed out section of bridge masonry		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval of the application without conditions.

2. Background

Peekie Bridge is a late medieval single span bridge. The Hepburn coat of arms on its north side indicates that it was built in the late 15th or early 16th century by John Hepburn, Prior of St Andrews or his nephew, Patrick Hepburn, who succeeded his uncle to the position of Prior.

A small section of masonry was lost from the south-western face of the western pier of the bridge several years ago and the area has been subject to gradual erosion ever since. The owner approached HES for advice, and the repairs covered by this application are being supported through the HES Monument Management Grant programme.

3. Proposals

Consented works: Repair of section of bridge masonry

Description of Works:

- Replacement of eroded rubble core using local stone and lime mortar (NHL5).
- Replacement of facing stones using local compatible stone and recovered stone.
- Pinning and repointing as necessary.

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 the 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 the works; and

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

(4) Scheduled monument consent may be granted unconditionally or subject to conditions (whether with respect to the manner in which or the persons by whom the works or any of the works are to be executed or otherwise).

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (June 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 will involve the repair of a section of the south-western face of the bridge which has been damaged by river erosion. A loss of facing stone on this section has exposed the masonry core at a level around the average summer water level; in winter, the damaged area is regularly below the water line. The affected area is currently less than 1 cubic metre in volume, but it is likely to continue to erode, ultimately threatening the continued stability of the bridge.

The works will comprise the addition of a new rubble core in the eroded area and the addition of replacement facing stones to match the existing pattern of masonry. One original facing stone has been identified on the riverbank and will be reused in the structure while other stones will be sourced from the immediate local area where there is a suitable supply. A mortar mix suitable for the wet environment will be used.

The works outlined in the application will have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument, while helping to ensure its long term survival.

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

None. Although the works are adjacent to a watercourse, SEPA guidelines indicate that the works should not require referral to them.

d) Conclusion

The works will involve the installation of replacement masonry and lime mortar to make good the damaged section of the bridge. This represents additions to the monument under Part 1.2(2)(b) of the Act and as such, scheduled monument consent is required.

The proposed works comprise repairs to the bridge to make good a section of masonry, both restoring the appearance of the monument and protecting it against further erosion by the action of the river. Appropriate materials and techniques are proposed. The works will not have an adverse effect on the cultural significance of the monument, and that they represent the minimum necessary to achieve the stated aim of repairing the damage section of bridge masonry. The works therefore comply with section 3.16 of the Policy Statement.

The application is supported by photographs showing the nature and extent of the damage. The application therefore contains sufficient justification for the works, in accordance with section 3.17 of the Policy Statement.

The application is supported by a suitably detailed description of the techniques and materials to be used, and the works will be carried out by an experienced practitioner. Therefore, section 3.20 of the Policy Statement is met.

The application is sufficiently detailed to allow consent to be granted without the need for conditions.

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.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	**Deirdre Cameron**	**Date**	**11/08/2016**
Approved by	**John Raven**	**Date**	**11/08/2016**

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location plan
- Photograph – damaged area of bridge from south
- Photograph – damaged area of bridge from west
- Photograph – detail of damaged area of bridge from west