



## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201602537		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	St Kilda village and related structures		
<b>Index no</b>	M2276	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NF010994 1000.0000 899400.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	09 August 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	09 August 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Removal of silt build-up to bring the reservoir back to its original capacity.		

## 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends approval for works to the impounding reservoir to remove silt build-up to bring the reservoir back to its original capacity.

## 2. Background

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The monument contains the abandoned remains of several millennia of farming, which came to an abrupt end in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the island was abandoned. The remains therefore represent a relict farming system and settlement pattern which has then been overrun by natural processes. Its abandoned and natural qualities are also key to the island's dual World Heritage Site (WHS) designation, for both natural and cultural purposes.

The reservoir is located within the scheduled area of Village Bay, next to an area of hardstanding close to the beach. It provides a supply of water which can be used to put out any fires on the island, and restoring the reservoir to its full capacity is necessary for meeting the Crown Fire Standards for firefighting. The works are therefore necessary for the running of the infrastructure on the island, and are crucial to the monument and the overall management of the WHS.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have had pre-application discussions with the applicant, and with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) who are the owners and managers. We are satisfied that any potential impacts to the monument have been identified and mitigated.

### 3. Proposals

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The works comprise the removal of silt build-up in the reservoir to bring it back to its original capacity.

They comprise the following:

- The installation of a trackmat over the grassed areas where the rubber tracked excavator and trash pump will be situated
- The removal of silt from the reservoir using the tracked excavator. The silt will be placed in filter bags, and these will be allowed to drain before being moved to the storage area for removal off the island. Some of the bags will be stored for use by the NTS in the storage area.
- The installation of a new liner in the reservoir

### 4. Representations received

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No representations were received.

### 5. Report

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#### 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.

#### 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 (see Note 3.2). A consent under section 42 of the 1979 Act is also required to use a metal detector within a scheduled monument (see Note 3.3). 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. (Annex 1 sets out guidance as to how cultural significance and national importance should be determined.)

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 proposed works to the monument are the minimum necessary and are essential for the safe running of the infrastructure of the island.

The method statement accompanying the application states that a rubber tracked excavator and trash pump which will be used to undertake the removal of silt. Although these machines will be located on grassed sections either side of the

reservoir, protective matting will be installed beneath them in order to protect the monument and any underlying archaeological structures or deposits.

In addition, any stored materials will be located in an area of hardstanding and therefore will not damage sensitive archaeology.

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

None.

**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 Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement.

The proposed works would have minimal impact on the historic fabric and cultural significance of the monument, and consequently do not conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy Statement.

No conditions are considered necessary.

## **6. Recommended decision**

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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 consent is **granted without conditions**.

## **7. Conditions**

None

## **8. Approval**

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Nicola Hall</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>21/09/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>John Raven</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>22/09/2016</b>

## **Annex A – list of supporting documents**

- Location
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Method Statement
- Email from SNH
- Email from DIO Ecologist