



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018723		
Scheduled Monument	Castle Roy		
Index no	SM952	Grid ref	NJ 62000 19000
Date application validated	18 November 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Programme of masonry survey with mortar sampling and analysis		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted with conditions.

2. Background

The monument consists of a 13th-century enclosure castle set on a natural circular mound.

The castle is comprised of a 25m long curtain wall with a gateway to the northeast and a small projecting tower on the north angle. The wall is around 2m thick and is constructed of split boulder rubble. The walls are largely complete and survive to wallhead level in most places. There are no traces of internal structures or outer defences.

The proposal is part of a wider project of sampling the historic Mortar of Scottish Castles which is HES-funded.

3. Proposals

It is proposed to sample historic mortars on the monument by removing a small number of samples from exposed masonry.

2-4 Small mortar samples measuring approximately 50 x 50 x 50mm will be taken from the curtain wall of the castle, from at least three of the four walls. A further 10-25 small mortar samples measuring around 1cm³ will also be taken from mortars across the site.



Samples will be removed by a qualified stonemason using a masonry hammer and chisel and a strong knife, avoiding fragile or structurally sensitive areas. All contexts to be sampled will first be recorded using a scaled photograph, and the location of each sample will be recorded using hand-measurements from fixed points and with the assistance of building survey data.

The samples will then be used for lab-based mortar analysis and radiocarbon dating.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

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.

3.16. 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.

3.18. 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.



b) Assessment

The sampling will result in removal of mortar from in situ construction deposits. However, the samples will be very small in comparison to the overall monument. They will also be removed from exposed areas which are liable to being washed out due to environmental effects and provide no structural function. The works will be undertaken by a qualified stone mason certified under the HES Construction Skills Certification Scheme who will select areas which are not fragile or sensitive for sampling. The physical impacts will therefore be slight.

The sampling is being undertaken under an HES-funded project, which is highly innovative and ground breaking. It therefore has the potential to increase the cultural significance of the monument by increasing our understanding of the chronology of the building's features and the date and manner of its construction.

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

The proposed works have no potential to impact negatively upon Protected Species and Places.

d) Conclusion

The impacts on the physical fabric of the monument are minimal and due to their limited nature should not have the potential to negatively affect the cultural significance of the castle. The works do not, therefore, conflict with para 3.16 of the policy statement.

The purpose of the work is to undertake research supported by HES which has the potential to greatly increase our understanding of castles and therefore may enhance how such buildings are understood and presented to the wider public. It may therefore enhance the cultural significance of the monument.

It is essential that a timetable for reporting be provided in order that a record of the sample location and the results is maintained. As there is no provision for reporting within the application two conditions have been added.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, 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, subject to the conditions detailed below.**



7. Conditions

1. A short report detailing the location of the mortar samples shall be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland within three weeks of the works being completed on site.

Reason: to ensure that an accurate record of works to the monument is maintained.

2. Within six months of the works being completed on site the final report on the results of the mortar analysis shall be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland.

Reason: to ensure that an accurate record of works to the monument is maintained.

8. Approval

Case officer	Kevin Grant	Date	16 December 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	16 December 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Preliminary survey report
- Proposed sampling strategy