



## Case Information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	300018891		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Fort Charlotte, Lerwick		
<b>Index no</b>	SM90145	<b>Grid ref</b>	HU 47500 41500
<b>Date application validated</b>	14 December 2016		
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Installation of new electric cable		

## 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for installation of an electric cable be granted.

## 2. Background

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Fort Charlotte is an artillery fortification that was built in the second half of the 17th century and modified later. It is a Property in Care. The fort is roughly pentagonal in shape, with a battery set behind a zig-zagged parapet wall facing out over Bressay Sound to the east, and angled bastions defending the landward sides. The scheduled area encompasses the area contained within the walls of the fort, the walls themselves, and a zone extending for 2m in front of the base of the walls on all sides.

The monument is of national importance as an almost completely preserved example of a post-medieval coastal battery and associated barrack. It was built to control one of the principal shipping lanes between Europe and the rest of the World.

The proposal is to install an electricity cable outside the fort but with a short (around 2m) stretch extending to within 2m of the base of the walls and so into the scheduled area. The work is associated with a development on Harbour Street, which has been discussed with Historic Environment Scotland Casework team.

## 3. Proposals

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Laying a new electric cable to a private dwelling.



The cable would run from an electric sub station in the Market Green Car Park (outside the Fort to the northwest) across a grassed area between the car park and the base of the Fort Wall. This stretch of cable would be 2m away from the Fort wall so outside of the scheduled area.

At the angle of the Fort's northwest bastion the trench would turn to the east to reach a property on Harbour Street. This stretch of trench would extend into the scheduled area, around 1m from the base of the Fort wall and for a length of around 2m before the cable emerged from the trench and was attached to the wall of an existing building.

The cable trench would be around 400mm deep and excavated by machine. It would be backfilled on completion.

## 4. Representations received

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No representations have been received.

## 5. Report

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### 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.



## **b) Assessment**

A short length of cable trench would be excavated through a zone around the base of the Fort wall. There are not predicted to be any archaeological remains associated with the Fort in this area and the works have little potential to have an adverse effect on the fabric of the Fort's wall. The trench would be backfilled on completion and would make no substantive visual alteration to the monument. Consequently the works would have limited impact on the cultural significance of the monument. There would be no change to the monument so the works are consistent with policy statement paragraphs 3.14 and 3.18. No other paragraphs are relevant.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is 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 proposed works, comprising installation of an electric cable would have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument because of their location and hence they are not inconsistent with paragraphs 3.14 and 3.16 of the policy statement.

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

## **7. Conditions**

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No conditions have been attached to this decision.



## 8. Approval

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<b>Case officer</b>	Simon Stronach	<b>Date</b>	09 January 2017
<b>Approved by</b>	John Raven	<b>Date</b>	10 January 2017

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Deed Plan showing cable route
- Map showing cable route
- Three annotated photographs of cable route