



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018896		
Scheduled Monument	Jarlshof, broch & settlement		
Index no	SM90174	Grid ref	HU 39800 9500
Date application validated	15 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Placing of permanent ground markers		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for installation of permanent ground markers be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises the multi-period settlement site of Jarlshof, a Property in Care located on the coast near the southern tip of Shetland. It includes the remains of dry-stone structures built in the Prehistoric, Norse, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. Extensive excavations and reconstruction of parts of the site have been undertaken. Recorded archaeological deposits included midden with large quantities of artefacts.

The scheduled area includes the stone structures and an area around them where further sub-surface remains are likely to survive. The monument is open to the public and crossed by a network of paths.

The monument is nationally important because of its exceptional preservation, the highly informative archaeological deposits associated with it and the remarkable range of different periods of occupation at the same location.

The monument requires maintenance in order to counter erosion from weathering and visitors. The application concerns placing permanent survey markers at several points in the site in order to facilitate ongoing management. The application is from Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Directorate.



3. Proposals

Installation of permanent ground markers for survey.

Permanent ground markers would be installed at 12 locations in the scheduled area. These include grassed areas and hard surfaces.

Two types of marker would be used as appropriate to the location:

- 'Feno' markers, which are 350mm long and 19mm diameter steel pins with a resin head
- Nails, which are 50mm long 8.8mm diameter steel nails.

The Feno markers would be set in hand dug pockets measuring 125 x 125 x 125 mm. The turf would be cut in one piece to be re-used over the marker. Prior to insertion the ground would be tested for solid objects by probing with survey arrows. If resistance was encountered the marker would be re-positioned. The marker would be pushed into the ground so the head was flush with the pocket base. Depending on location and presence of features to facilitate the finding of the marker in future, the head of the marker would be concreted in and covered with a concrete or slate cap placed flush with surrounding turf. The removed turf would be thinned and placed over to camouflage the location.

The nails would be set into pre-drilled holes and set flush to the surrounding surface.

All locations have been chosen to avoid obvious conflict with archaeology. In particular, they are located in current or former paths and to the immediate rear of the adjoining sea wall (where ground is expected to be disturbed). This assessment has been informed by advice provided by Cultural Resources Team in relation to other work at the monument, although not provided directly in relation to these proposals.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

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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.

3.15. 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.

b) Assessment

The permanent survey markers would be used to facilitate survey that is essential to the monument's management. They would remove the need to place temporary survey pegs or markers in the monument for every survey. Over time they would therefore reduce the overall amount of ground penetration at the monument and ensure the accuracy of surveys.

They would involve some hand excavation of pockets but this is restricted to 125mm so is likely to be restricted to the upper turf and topsoil and is not likely to extend into sub-surface archaeological deposits. The markers would be located in areas where there is no conflict with upstanding remains; probing would be used to ensure there are no structures just below the surface. The pins and nails would be inserted into underlying soft deposits to a maximum depth of 350mm, which may extend into sensitive archaeological deposits. However, the maximum width of the shafts is 19mm and this is not likely to have a substantive effect on deposits.

The nails would be flush with surrounding surfaces and the Feno markers would be disguised by a flush capping of turf, slate or concrete depending on location. While visible to those wishing to locate the markers these would not be readily visible to visitors to the monument.

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The locations have been chosen to avoid areas where there is likely to be disturbance to sub-surface archaeological remains. In particular, the Feno markers have been positioned on existing or former paths and to the rear of the adjoining sea wall, where ground is expected to have been disturbed. The choice of location has been informed by advice provided by the HES Cultural Resources Team regarding archaeological sensitivity.

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 work would facilitate ongoing management and conservation of the monument. It would remove the need to place survey markers in the monument during each individual survey. The markers would be placed in a way that minimises impacts on archaeological remains.

The works are being done to the monument in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument and hence they are not inconsistent with paragraphs 3.14 and 3.16 of the policy statement.

6. Recommended decision

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

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Simon Stronach	Date	09 January 2017
Approved by	John Raven	Date	11 January 2017

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Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Drawing 568/174/285
- Email from District Architect (11 January 2017)