



## Case Information

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Reference/Case ID	300018751		
Scheduled Monument	Kelso Abbey		
Index no	SM90177	Grid ref	NT 72800 33800
Date application validated	8 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Remedial works to stabilise 27 Memorials		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for **Kelso Abbey - Remedial works to stabilise 27 Memorials** be granted with conditions.

### 2. Background

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The monument is the remains of an abbey founded by David I in the early twelfth century. It was a Tironesian house which was well endowed and, being so close to Roxburgh, had close royal connections. James III was crowned here.

The upstanding remains of the abbey are the west end of the church which is unusual in Scotland in having a western transept. The abbey church was finished in 1243. The remains show a vigorous use of rising arcades, both blind and open, to enliven the high towers. Two arches of the south nave arcade still stand as does the outer parlour and a trefoil doorway now built into the neighbouring monument to the Dukes of Roxburghe.

A monastery of this importance would have covered a large area and excavations in the 1970's revealed part of the south east transept and an infirmary range further east. Doubtless other remains survive elsewhere in the vicinity.

The scheduled area is bounded to the south by the River Tweed, to the west by Bridge Street, to the north by the church yard of Kelso Old Parish Church and to the east by Glebe Lane. Principal exclusions to the scheduling are all post-monastic structures above the ground which are not in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland and all plots of ground where burial rights exist.

It is the set of 27 carved stone memorials and burial markers located within and immediately adjacent to the ruined church that this application relates to. The application is for the stabilisation of gravemarkers by pinning upright / vertical stone



components to existing bases over renewed concrete founds. It has been submitted by Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Directorate.

The application is accompanied by two site plans locating all 27 memorial stones; a works method statement; a risk assessment and works guide and; photographic inventory of all 27 memorials.

## 3. Proposals

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- Archaeological watching brief.
- Mechanical lift of all memorials.
- Split masonry joints.
- Lay flat of all memorials.
- Break our existing foundations.
- Excavate and lay foundations for all memorials.
- Erect memorials into foundations, pinning and anchoring upright sections.

### Consented works – **Kelso Abbey - Remedial works to stabilise 27 Memorials**

The works are to stabilise 27 existing memorials by removing upright stone sections and temporarily laying them flat while existing foundations are removed and a larger foundation for each is laid. Upright sections will then be pinned and anchored to the new foundations / plinths.

Aims – To re-erect memorial stones in order to improve stability / reduce likelihood of structural failure.

Personnel – Approved contractor, Thomas Brown and Sons, Melrose.

## 4. Representations received

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No third party representations were 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.

3.15. 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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
- b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;



- c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
- d. that the management and execution of alteration, including remedial work, is sympathetic to the historic character;
- e. that appropriate skills and techniques, materials and construction techniques are specified where appropriate;
- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- g. that it is possible, on close inspection, to differentiate new work from old particularly on masonry structures;
- h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects; and
- i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

Carved Stones. Scottish Executive policy and guidance. 2005

Sections 2.3 & 4.3 Conservation strategies and practice, including intervention.

Section 4.3.6 If considering moving a carved stone, particularly if moving to a new structure, consideration needs to be given to: future public access to the structure and its contents, and how these can be displayed; long-term responsibility for conservation of the carved stone, including regular monitoring and access to specialist conservation skills; long-term stability and maintenance responsibilities of the structure housing the carved stone; how the carved stone can be safely relocated, both with reference to the carved stone itself and the health and safety of those persons involved in the project.

Section 4.3.25

Where carved stones require to be made structurally stable by placing them on a mount, this should not involve any physical destruction or abrasion of the fabric of the stone. Mountings for carved stones should be sympathetically designed and constructed so as to facilitate the easy removal of the carved stone at any time for conservation treatment or maintenance of the surrounding fabric. Cushioning should be provided as an interface between a metal support and carved stone to prevent abrasion damage. If metal is being used for brackets, non-ferrous metals (and 316 stainless steel) are recommended for outside or humid conditions; in a dry internal environment a coated mild steel may be acceptable. A stone conservator should always advise on what is appropriate.



## 4.3.27 & 28 Reforming or joining carved stones

Where presentation and mounting of the carved stone requires parts of the stone to be reformed, or stone fragments to be joined, the modern fabric should be self-documenting (the monument can tell its own story without recourse to written documents), identifiable on close inspection, and should not be aesthetically invasive or disturb the coherence of the whole. The compatibility of the material used in the repair should be well researched. Reconstruction (through the addition of new material) of even limited parts of a carving should generally be avoided unless there is clear evidence upon which to base all elements of this and its presence will directly aid consolidation and presentation of the sculpture in question.

Repairs of gravestones will require the use of non-ferrous dowels of suitable length and either a thixotropic resin (for clean breaks) or lime mortar (for wider joints). For repairs to stone, hard cement mortars should be avoided and lime mortar only used. Lifting stones must only be carried out under specialist supervision and it should be recognised that friable stones are liable to break-up if lifting is attempted.

### **b) Assessment**

The proposed works involve remedial works to stabilise 27 memorials at Kelso Abbey. The work is being undertaken to improve the stability of these memorials and to mitigate the risk of accident resulting from their collapse.

The work would involve undertaking remedial and conservation works to mitigate health and safety risks to the public and to maintain the structural integrity of the masonry.

The physical impact of the proposed works would be the temporary removal of above ground elements of each memorial; the excavation of suitably sized foundations for each and their re-erection using pinning and anchoring techniques. This is intended to improve and prolong their physical stability.

The physical impact of these works on the monument and its cultural significance would be comparatively minor, but the benefits to the long term preservation of the monument would be significant.

The removal of existing foundations, for each memorial and the excavation of larger foundations (where necessary) as part of their re-erection, fall into two categories – 1) those ten memorials located on or within the structural footprint of the abbey church and 2) those remaining 17 memorials located in the wider grounds, adjacent to the church. The ground underneath the first group is likely to contain important archaeological materials (artefacts, ecofacts, features, other deposits and structures). The ground underneath memorials in the second group may well have been previously disturbed with burial and earlier memorial founds. In both groups, where the footprint of the new foundations is to be extended, it is possible that archaeological materials will be

# Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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exposed. The works could therefore remove archaeological deposits and artefacts from the monument and consequently be destructive.

Given the size of the exposed foundations relative to the size of the overall scheduled monument they would not have a material effect on the monument's overall archaeological value.

No written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring has been provided as part of this application, although the applicant has acknowledged that archaeological mitigation would be required and has proposed that *"all ground excavation will be carried out under a watching archaeological brief"*. The details of this mitigation would need to be agreed and controlled through a WSI. The provision of an agreed WSI would enable the application to be considered compliant with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places 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 works, comprising **Kelso Abbey - Remedial works to stabilise 27 Memorials**, are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works have been proposed in order to ensure the long term preservation of parts of the monument and so are justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

Archaeological monitoring is required as part of the works and this has not been provided as part of the current application. A detailed WSI covering appropriate archaeological monitoring and mitigation is required in advance of the works, and it is possible that the detail of the scheme would need to be revised as an outcome. A condition covering the production of a WSI is required to enable the application to be fully compliant with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement.

In order to ensure the works comply with the policy statement conditions as outlined in paragraph 3.22 are considered necessary.



Condition 1 is to produce a suitable WSI for the archaeological monitoring work, noting that the memorials fall into two groups (as detailed above) and that individual memorials within each of these groups should be monitored according to their sensitivity and the likelihood of archaeological material being exposed.

## 6. Recommended decision

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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. It is recommended that consent is **granted subject to the condition detailed below**.

I recommend consent is **granted, subject to the condition detailed below**.

## 7. Conditions

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1. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area (as indicated on the plan supplied with the scheduled monument consent application), until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological monitoring work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) and has had this WSI approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland. This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved development.

*Reason: to ensure that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.*

## 8. Approval

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<b>Case officer</b>	Andrew Fulton	<b>Date</b>	13 January 2017
<b>Approved by</b>	Iona Murray	<b>Date</b>	18 January 2017

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

1. Method statement.
2. Kelso Abbey memorials safety check sheet.
3. Methodology statement.
4. Kelso Abbey quote for remedial work to monuments.
5. General risk assessment and work guide.
6. Two location plans - Kelso Abbey graveyard consolidation.