

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300019068		
Scheduled Monument	St Kilda village and related structures		
Index no	SM2276	Grid ref	NF103992
Date application validated	25 January 2017		
Summary of proposed works	GPR survey		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for geophysical survey be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises an area around Village Bay on St Kilda, which includes evidence for settlement from as early as the Bronze Age through to the 1930s, when the island was evacuated.

The most visible remains relate to a village, first laid out in the 1830s and expanded in the 1860s. The monument is of national importance because it comprises diverse and well preserved remains of settlement that date from prehistory through to the early 20th century. These remains have the potential to provide important information about life on St. Kilda through the millennia, an extreme existence that is of enormous interest to Scottish and international observers. The latter is recognised in the islands' status as a World Heritage Site, and its Outstanding Universal Value includes reference to the surviving remains of the 19th Century village.

This application relates to areas of ground near the Factor's House, Church and a track connecting them to the Helipad. The work concerns a non-intrusive survey designed to locate modern services.

The proposal has been discussed in advance with Heritage Casework.

3. Proposals

Undertaking a utility services scan using ground penetrating radar of the area highlighted on the drawings supplied with the application and partially within the scheduled area.

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The scan would use the following equipment:

- RD4000/RD8000 tracing equipment and sonde
- MALA Easy Locator Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

The equipment would be pulled across the ground surface to scan for services, which would then be recorded as follows:

- The RD4000/RD8000 scanning equipment will be used to carry out both Passive and Active scans of the survey site in order to locate buried metallic services.
- The MALA GPR PRO will be used to scan the survey site for all buried services including both metallic and non-metallic.
- The scanned position of services present on site will be marked on the ground with depth, and their position recorded using the Leica total station.

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:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors.

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.

3.18. 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

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are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.

The monument forms part of the St Kilda World Heritage Site. Any impacts of the proposal on the outstanding universal value of the WHS, as set out in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), should be considered.

b) Assessment

The survey would not be intrusive and would not change the monument in any way. It would therefore have no effect on the cultural significance of the monument or the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

The information recovered by the survey is related to modern services and may form a useful contribution to the monument's management in the future. For example, the survey results may help confine excavations needed to uncover modern services to areas of previously disturbed ground in the future. A survey report containing this information would be provided to HES.

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

SNH have been consulted with regard to the proposals and have responded that they have no comments or advice.

d) Conclusion

The work would not have any adverse impact on the monument. The results may enhance our understanding of the location of modern services within it. As it would not result in any impacts upon the monument's cultural significance the proposed work is not inconsistent with Policy Statement paragraphs 3.14 and 3.18 and would have no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

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	30 January 2017
Approved by	John Raven	Date	03 February 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- St Kilda Survey Ops RAMS Review
- Work Area Plan
- Site Access Plan