



## Case Information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	300019091		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Teampull Moire, churches, chapels and enclosures, Howmore		
<b>Index no</b>	SM948	<b>Grid ref</b>	NF 5700 36400
<b>Date application validated</b>	07 February 2017		
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Re-erect drystone wall surrounding site		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for 'Teampull Moire, churches, chapels, enclosures - re-erect drystone wall surrounding site' be granted.

### 2. Background

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The monument is a large mound bearing the remains of a group of ecclesiastical structures, representing two churches, at least two chapels and two burial enclosures. The scheduled area includes the entirety of the mound, the visible building remains, and the surrounding dry-stone wall. The monument is of national importance as one of the chief ecclesiastical establishments of the Western Isles in the later Medieval period, with a strong possibility that the visible remains overlie an early Christian establishment.

The works relate to the the enclosing boundary wall, which is thought to be mid-19th century in date with 20th century repairs and additions.

HES Heritage Management Directorate's Field Officer has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

### 3. Proposals

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- Re-erection of an approximately 2m section of collapsed dry stone wall.



There has been a collapse of the internal face of the dry-stone wall which encloses the site. It is proposed that the collapsed and unstable area, measuring around 2m wide will be dismantled where necessary and rebuilt in dry stone to match the appearance of the remaining wall. The work will be undertaken by a qualified dry stone dyker in March or April 2017.

## 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.



## **b) Assessment**

The proposed works involve the re-erection of a dry stone wall surrounding the site of Teampull Moire. This is intended to repair a recent collapse to the interior face of the wall.

The wall itself dates to the mid-19th century and the inclusion of cement along its top suggests further modern interventions. Although the enclosing wall does contribute to the visual amenity of the site and is part of the post-medieval use of the monument, it is not of primary significance to the monument as the national importance lies in the medieval and early medieval ecclesiastical remains. It is consequently the character of the wall, rather than its historic fabric, that makes the greatest contribution to the monument's cultural significance.

The work is necessary to repair the natural decay of the existing wall. The dountaking would be the minimum necessary in order to create a stable repair. The completed work should match the existing stonework and so should not be visible after sufficient time has passed for the lichen to regenerate and the stone weathers somewhat. It should therefore have a beneficial impact upon the visual character of the site and this feature's overall contribution to its cultural significance.

## **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**

Impacts on historic fabric would be minimal as the works are not to a particularly sensitive part of the monument. It would result in restoring the visual and functional cohesiveness of the wall and so should have a net overall benefit to the cultural significance of the monument. The works have been proposed in order to ensure the long term preservation of the monument and so are justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 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>	Kevin Grant	<b>Date</b>	17 February 2017
<b>Approved by</b>	John Raven	<b>Date</b>	17 February 2017

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location map of proposed works
- Photographs of area of collapsed wall proposed for repair