



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300019071		
Scheduled Monument	St Bridget's Kirk		
Index no	SM90266	Grid ref	NT 16900 83800
Date application validated	25 January 2017		
Summary of proposed works	Insertion of doors, gate and window bars to deter vandalism		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the insertion of doors, gate and window bars at St Bridget's Kirk be **granted without conditions**.

2. Background

The monument comprises the substantial remains of the former parish church of Dalgety and its surrounding graveyard.

Dedicated to St Bridget, the church was granted to the Priory (later Abbey) of Inchcolm by William the Lion, and reconsecrated in 1244. It remained in use until 1830. The pre-Reformation building, of simple rectangular plan, is still discernible among the many post-Reformation alterations and additions. At the eastern end of the building, a stone forestair survives which once gave access to the timber gallery inserted to provide additional seating following the Reformation. The remains of aisles built out from the nave and chancel with burial vaults below and seating above are also visible. Of particular note is the grand aisle built at the western end of the church in the early 17th century for the 1st Earl of Dunfermline, Lord Chancellor of Scotland. This is a two-storey structure which includes a large 'laird's loft' with a fireplace. Built against the outer western wall of the graveyard is a watch house of more modern date. The scheduled area is irregular on plan, with maximum dimensions of 34m north to south by 46m east to west, to include the church, graveyard and watch house. The boundaries of the scheduled area are defined by the graveyard wall which is to be included in this scheduling. The monument is also listed at Category A and is a Property in Care of Scottish Ministers.



The monument is of national importance because it comprises substantial remains of a parish church with a documented history spanning some 800 years. The building and the surrounding grave yard have the potential to add to our knowledge and understanding of ecclesiastical architecture and religious practices over an extended period of time. The importance of the monument is demonstrated by its status as a property in state care.

It is the insertion of doors, gate and window bars at St Bridget's Kirk that this application relates to. In recent years the monument has been damaged by vandalism and the addition of these architectural features provide protection to the monument and deter congregation. It has been submitted by Historic Environment Scotland's Conservation Directorate. The application is accompanied by a site and location plan, plans detailing the doors which will be inserted at the Laird's Loft and the Nave, plans detailing the bars to be inserted into the nave window and plans detailing the gate into the Ingle's Aisle.

HES Heritage Directorate 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

- Reinstatement of original or insertion of new door at the entrance to the Laird's Loft;
- Insertion of a new door into the southern entrance to the Nave;
- Insertion of delta bronze bars into existing bar sockets on the window on the southern side of the nave; and
- Insertion of new gates in the entrance to the Inglis Aisle;

The non-historic door to the Lairds Loft will be reinstated. This will utilise the original door which is held in storage or a new door of similar specifications. The door will utilise the existing modern ironmongery which remains in-situ. The existing pockets in the stone within which the previous door was attached will be utilised where fixings are not already present.

A new oak studded door is planned to be inserted into the southern doorway of the nave. The door fixings and keepers will utilise the existing pockets in the masonry from previous door fixings. In order to restrict access through the window next to the southern doorway a bronze bar will be bedded vertically into existing sockets in the sill and lintol of the window on the southern side of the nave. Two horizontal cross-bars would then be welded onto the vertical bar. A bronze flat bar would then be inserted between the joints in the masonry underneath the lintol which has deteriorated and requires stabilisation.



The gate which will be placed within the entrance to the Inglis Aisle will be constructed out of mild steel hollow railings. The load-bearing fixings for the gates and screens will be attached to the existing open sockets within the wall frame. The existing sockets suggests that there was previously a timber screen within the entrance. The sockets will be indented with new, petrologically similar sandstone to hold the gate fixings. The upper third of the frame of the gate will be attached to the arched stonework with 'Type 2' 3mm wide stainless steel holdfasts designed to fit between the existing joints within the upper wall frame in addition to lead wool. The gate posts will be inserted into the two existing floor sockets within the flagstones which are currently filled with resin mortar. The resin will be tested to ascertain if it will be strong enough to support and secure the gatepost. If not it will be carefully removed and replaced with an appropriate lime-based mortar with lead or a new resin.

As the monument continues to be vulnerable to vandalism while access is unimpeded the works are to be undertaken within a relatively short timeframe. The works will be undertaken by professional construction staff with experience working with historic buildings.

4. Representations received

No third party representations were 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 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.

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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the insertion of doors, window bars and a gate at St Bridget's Kirk. This is intended to ensure the monument is protected from further damage from vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

The physical impact of the proposed works relates to the insertion of new architectural elements within doorways or windows. The reinstallation of the old door to the Laird's Loft and its replacement with a new door will utilise existing modern fixings and would not impact the fabric of the monument. The insertion of the door within the southern entrance of the nave will utilise existing pockets within the door jambs for new fixings. The pockets within the stonework will not be modified or widened, and therefore no impact on the historic fabric is anticipated. Once in place these doors will control access into the monument from the southern side of the nave, and control access into the Laird's Loft when the monument is closed to the public.

The window on the southern side of the nave which allows easy access to the interior of the monument will be blocked with iron bars. The vertical bar will be inserted into existing sockets in the lintel and cill of the window. In order to restrict access two horizontal bars will be welded onto the vertical bar. The lintel above the window has a large crack in its western end and in order to consolidate the window during and following works, a thick bronze support bar will be set between the joints of the stonework to prevent further movement or collapse. As the vertical bar will be set into existing sockets, and as the support bar will be inserted into the joint between the lintel and the supporting ribs, no impact on the historic fabric of the monument is anticipated.

The gate will be placed within the entrance to the Inglis Aisle to restrict access in order to prevent congregation and vandalism. The fixings for the gate frame will be placed inside existing pockets within the masonry, with additional supports inserted between the joints of the masonry of the arched entrance and packed with lead wool in order to provide additional stability. The gateposts will be inserted into the resin which has been used to fill in the post hole from the previous gate, or if the resin proves to be too weak to support the gate it will be carefully excavated from the post hole without removing any historic fabric. The gate posts will be inserted into the holes with the addition of a



new resin or lead supports. Therefore the insertion of the gate will not impact the historic fabric of the burial aisle.

The new doors have a matching design to the existing and previous doors within the monument. The reinstatement or installation of these doors into doorways will not alter the character of the monument or impede understanding of its form or function. The bronze bars which will be placed within the southern window are a replacement of a previous bar, and would not alter the character of the monument. The gate within the entrance to the Inglis Aisle will represent the introduction of a new feature in a location which would have been occupied by a wooden screen. The reinstatement of a wooden screen would not be suitable for deterring vandalism. The simplistic design of the gate reflects the nature of a post-medieval Presbyterian Burial Aisle, and would not alter our understanding of the form or function of the monument. During operational hours the gate and doors will be held open ensuring full access to visitors.

Therefore it can be seen that the physical impact of these works on the monument and its cultural significance would be comparatively minor. However, as they would provide additional protection against further vandalism, the benefits to the long term preservation of the monument would be significant. Additionally, the works proposed would affect a relatively small proportion of the scheduled monument, approximately <1%. They are therefore not assessed as extensive.

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 works, comprising new door and window bars to the nave, the reinstatement of the original or new door to the lairds loft and gate to the Inglis Aisle 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 while protecting it from further damage by vandalism and antisocial behaviour. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 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	Sam Fox	Date	21 February 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	21 February 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Site and Location Plan
- Laird's Loft Door Details
- Nave Door Details
- Nave Window Details
- Ingle's Aisle Gate Details
- Design Statement