Scheduled Monument Consent
Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300061521

Scheduled Monument	Catrine, water works for Catrine Mill 30m S of 9 St Cuthbert's Street		
Index no	SM5670	**Grid ref**	NS 53314 26019

Date application validated	26 January 2023
Summary of proposed works	Repair damaged retaining wall

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent for the repair of a damaged retaining wall on St Cuthbert Street that bounds the western voe of the Catrine water works, in East Ayrshire, be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises the water management system that was built and developed to supply water power to Catrine's cotton mills and bleaching works. The main elements are a weir on the River Ayr, five large ponds known as 'voes', and a series of open and covered lades. There are also the remains of sluices and the foundations of a short aqueduct that carried water from the end of the lade to the wheelhouse. The water management system lies on the north side of Catrine, beginning at the River Ayr to the north-east of the town and extending westwards for almost 1km to terminate about 85m NNW of Mill Square. The first parts of the system were built in 1787, but it was adapted several times before its eventual disuse in the 1970s.

It is the stone wall on the northern edge of the western voe, immediately to the west of the footbridge, which this application relates to. The application is for the repair of a damaged wall. It has been submitted by East Ayrshire Council.

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The application is accompanied by a location plan and a Work Statement, which includes an image of the damaged wall to be repaired, materials to be used, and a risk assessment.

There were pre-application discussions with HES Heritage Directorate regarding the scope and timings of the works. The applicant provided additional information, as requested, following the submission of the application.

3. Proposals

- Reclaiming of red sandstone from the voe.
- Dismantling loose elements of upstanding wall.
- Rebuilding of sandstone wall.

The proposed works would comprise the repair of a damaged wall, caused by a vehicle, alongside the western voe of the Catrine water works. This would involve the recovery of masonry that had been knocked into the voe by the vehicle to be used in reconstruction of the wall. The old mortar would be cleaned off and damaged masonry would be cut to facilitate the repair, if required. A small section (0.5m x 0.3m x 0.8m) of the wall that is upstanding and loose would be taken down and the old mortar would be cleaned off the masonry. The section of the damaged sandstone wall (6m x 0.3m x 0.8m) would be rebuilt using existing masonry and lime mortar. If the repair cannot be completed with only existing masonry, then replacement stone of similar quality, colour, and tooling will be sourced.

The aim of the proposal is to repair a damaged section of wall alongside the Catrine water works, next to a public road. The proposed works would be undertaken by a contractor appointed by East Ayrshire Council, via the tendering process under the Roads Minor Works Framework Contract 3G.

A timetable has not been made available, as this will be provided to East Ayrshire Council once a contractor has been appointed.

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.

Scheduled Monument Consents Policy

Scheduled Monument Policy Aim

A monument is included in the schedule to secure its long-term protection in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the form it has come down to us. The aim of this policy is to ensure this long-term protection wherever possible.

Scheduled Monuments Principles

- 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 that is the primary consideration in determining applications for consent at scheduled monuments.
- The principle of preserving scheduled monuments will only be set aside in circumstances where wider considerations are deemed, on balance, to be of greater importance to the national Interest.
- The more important particular features are to the monument's cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify those features.
- Each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs. Any proposed change to it should be fully and explicitly justified.
- The management of scheduled monuments should be informed by current policy and guidance, up-to-date professional and academic research and, where appropriate, relevant consultation.

Scheduled Monument Policy 1

When undertaking works to scheduled monuments, their significance should be maintained.

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Scheduled Monuments can have meaning and value beyond their physical remains. Many have important historical, cultural or emotional associations that give them a particular significance in the life of the nation, or of the local community within which they are set. Many also have outstanding landscape or picturesque values. When undertaking works to them, it is therefore essential their significance is maintained and not reduced.

Scheduled Monument Consent Policy Aim

Works on scheduled monuments should normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1

Works to scheduled monuments will normally only be permitted if they have minimal impact upon a monument's cultural significance.

Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4

Proposals for change should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned and executed. The level of information provided should be in proportion to the sensitivity of the monument or feature and the level of change proposed.

For all applications where change is proposed, the following factors will be taken into account when considering if works meet this policy:

a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development on a monument's fabric and/or cultural significance.
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 and wider cultural significance .
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.

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h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and competent archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects.
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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works would involve the repair of a damaged wall on the northern edge of the western voe of the Catrine water works in East Ayrshire. This is intended to remedy the damage caused to the wall by a vehicle.

The physical impacts of the proposals would be minor, consisting of reclaiming and using the original masonry in the rebuilding of the wall. The proposed works are on the edge of the modern road and would not interfere with other elements of the historical architecture of the monument. The national importance of the monument will not therefore be impacted by the proposals. The benefits of the proposals would be significant as they would improve the appearance and stability of this section of the monument, and would also increase safety in this area near the voe.

It is therefore concluded that the works would have a minimal impact on the monument's cultural significance.

The application includes a work statement that sets out an appropriate method for the repair.

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

No impact on protected species or places is considered likely.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and Section 15 of the Scheduled Monument Consent Policy.

The works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way as to fully maintain the cultural significance of the monument. They do not therefore conflict with Scheduled Monument Policy 1.

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The proposed works would have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument and so are compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1.

The application is carefully considered, sensitively designed, and properly planned and so is compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4, and no conditions are considered necessary.

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	Scott McCreadie	**Date**	15 March 2023
Approved by	Richard Heawood	**Date**	16 March 2023

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location plan (W/CATR/70-001).
- Work statement (W/CATR/70-002).

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