



Case reference	SMC-SBD-002
Application details	Replace West gable roadside skewputt with new stone of reduced projection
Site address	Foulden Old Tithe Barn, Foulden, Berwickshire (SM 90148)
Applicant	Historic Environment Scotland - Conservation Directorate
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland - Heritage Directorate
Local Authority Area	Scottish Borders Council
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by Historic Environment Scotland go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
Representations	Nil
Date notified to Ministers	10 June 2020
Date of recommendation	2 July 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the replacement and repair of damaged masonry at the north-western gable corner of Foulden Old Tithe Barn.
- The monument consists of an 18th/early 19th-century barn and its courtyard adjacent to the church whose ‘teinds’ or ‘tithes’ were stored in it. The barn is a two-storey sandstone building with crowstepped gables, approached by an outside stair, right on the road edge. The building was altered in the 19th century, with the addition of a chimney, an interior rearrangement and additional door.
- The monument is of national importance because it is a rare survival of a tithe barn still associated with its church. It provides evidence of the architecture of this form of building and physical evidence for a now-vanished form of taxation where every tenth crop-sheaf at parish harvest was allocated to support the church.





Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during the consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government’s Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) following notification. They consider the proposed works do not raise any specific issues of national importance as the aim is to prevent additional damage to the monument from traffic, given the repeated incidents, and allow for its repair.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland’s (HES) Heritage Directorate are minded to grant SMC for the replacement of the west gable roadside skewputt [corner projecting stone] with new stone of reduced projection and stone repairs, which impact on the Scheduled Monument as the removal of material goes beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument.
2. The application has been submitted by HES’ Conservation Directorate as the property is in the care of Scottish Ministers. They are seeking to reduce further damage to the building, following successive vehicle collisions with the projecting skewputt which has also damaged the crowsteps and gable masonry. (see above drawing). Discussions have been ongoing with Scottish Borders Council about road safety/management however no additional physical changes in terms of the road edge boundary/speed restriction have been agreed. HES’ Conservation Directorate feel a re-occurrence is likely to be inevitable and they

cannot take the risk to drivers and passers-by from the falling stone, as the size and weight could cause a fatality. The works would be undertaken by HES' dedicated Monuments Conservation Unit staff.

3. The proposed works involve replacing a non-original skewputt with a smaller one, matching the original historic design but of a reduced size so it will not project as far from the edge of the building; replacing a broken crowstep with a new stone and rebedding or lime mortar repointing of other loosened stones as appropriate. The new skewputt stone will be dated with the year that it is replaced.
4. HES' Heritage Directorate considers the proposed works would have a lasting aesthetic impact on the monument as the north-western gable corner would appear slightly different to the south-western corner. The original appearance of the building detail would still remain at the south-western corner. They believe the proposed conservation works are the lowest practical level of intervention that is consistent with achieving the monument's preservation, and are justified because of the demonstrable risk to public safety and to the building's structure from vehicle collisions. However, the proposals for the skewputt are not a 'like for like' replacement and will result in a change in the appearance of a key and characteristic element of the architecture of the building, and as such it is not the minimum required to preserve the monument. HES conclude however overall, that the nature of the works would have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument.
5. HES consider the application is, on the whole, carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned. However, further information is required, in advance of the works, with regard to the timetable which enables the application to be fully compliant with their Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4. Consequently, a single condition is being imposed to ensure that an appropriate timetable of works is agreed prior to works commencing.
6. HES believe the proposal is broadly consistent with relevant policy. However, the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, hence the requirement to notify Scottish Ministers.
7. In summary, and for the reasons set out above, this SMC application does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to issue Scheduled Monument Consent with one condition.