

MONUMENT MANAGEMENT FUND 2023-24

Heritage Directorate

August 2024



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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OVERVIEW

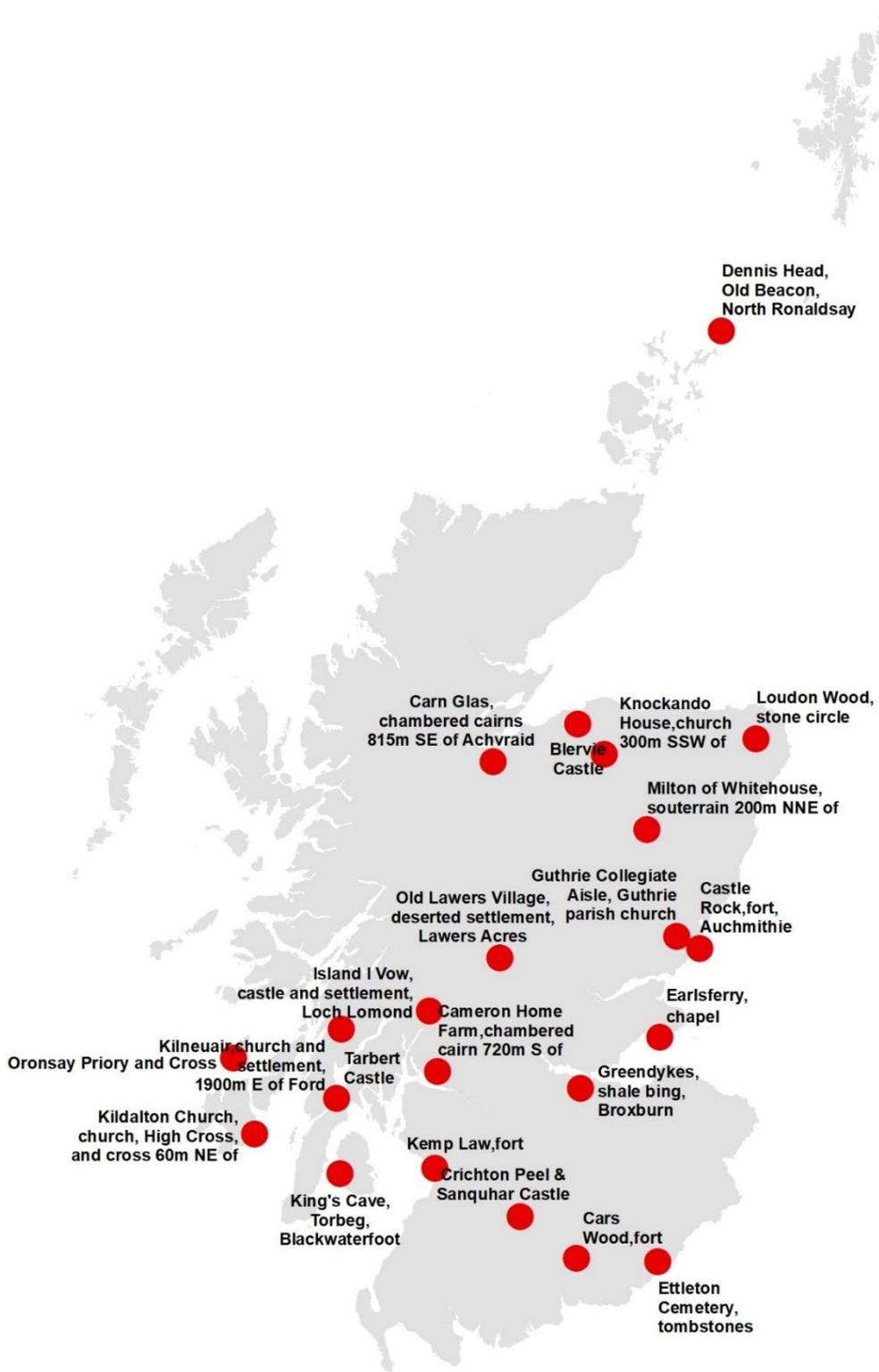


Figure 1 Map showing location of heritage assets which secured funding

The Monument Management Fund is targeted at modest management works to both scheduled and undesignated monuments.

In 2023-24:

- 26 projects received funding totalling £67,077.28
- Funding for projects ranged in value from £200.00 - £8,436.00.
- Projects spread across Scotland, over 14 local authority areas
- Condition of 15 monuments have improved as a result with works to remove vegetation or consolidate masonry.
- Investigative surveys, assessments or conservation reports were undertaken on 9 monuments, providing a platform for future conservation works to take place.
- Two sites were provided with new or enhanced signage which will assist in protecting the sites. A final project commissioned a supply of no-climbing signs that will be provided for upstanding monuments as required and where this specific issue arises.
- Positive engagement with 21 separate sets of stakeholders helping to ensure improved long-term management of monuments.
- Two category B listed building were also supported through the 2022-23 MMF programme, with one site benefiting from a condition survey update and the other site having repairs to doors and windows.

1. NATIONAL SUMMARY

A total of 26 projects received funding through the Monument Management Fund. Of these, 17 originated from Casework Officers, and 9 from Field Officers. The projects were spread across the country, taking in 14 local authority areas.

Figure 2 Map showing amount of funding per local authority area

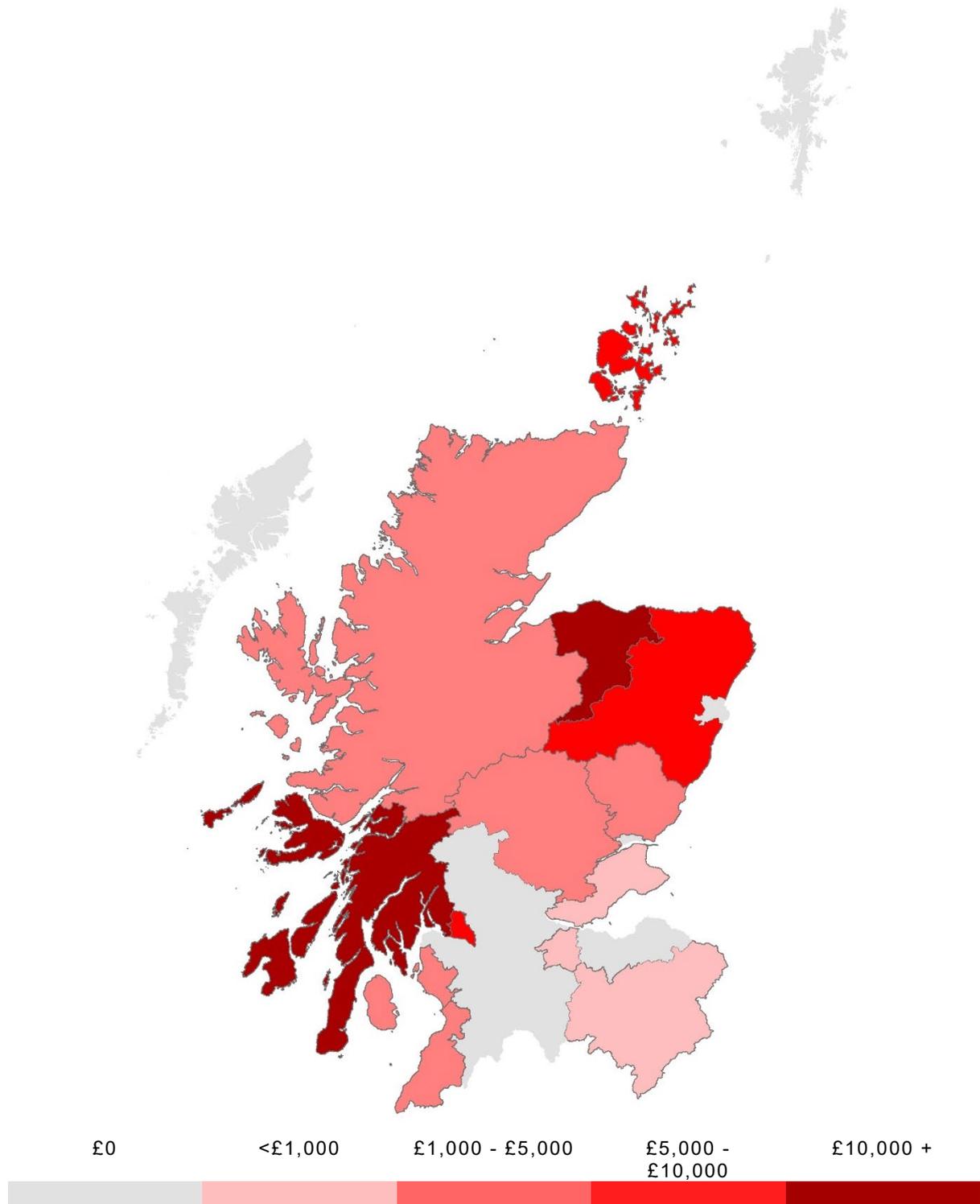


Table 1 Funding by local authority area

Local Authority Area	MMF 2023-24
Orkney	£5,000-£10,000
Highland	£1,000-£5,000
Moray	>£10,000
Aberdeenshire	£5,000-£10,000
Angus	£1,000-£5,000
Perth and Kinross	£1,000-£5,000
Argyll and Bute	>£10,000
Fife	<£1,000
West Lothian	<£1,000
Scottish Borders	<£1,000
West Dumbartonshire	£5,000-£10,000
North Ayrshire	<£1,000
South Ayrshire	<£1,000

2. SUMMARY OF GRANT WORKS COMPLETED

2.1 ORKNEY ISLANDS

2.1.1 DENNIS HEAD – REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT SCAFFOLDING

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM6596 Dennis Head, Old Beacon, North Ronaldsay, Orkney Islands

RECIPIENT

The North Ronaldsay Trust Ltd

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Removal of redundant scaffolding that has been encasing the monument for many years.

BENEFITS

In the mid-2000s, a programme of consolidation of the Old Beacon was advanced, in part-paid for by grant funding from the former Historic Scotland. At the end of the project, the freestanding scaffolding that had been erected around the tower was retained in-situ for reasons now unknown. Given that this scaffolding was no longer fit-for-purpose, not safe to climb, and in part corroded, its removal therefore allows the monument to be returned to a safe consolidated condition without accretions or additions that might otherwise adversely affect an understanding and appreciation of the site.

2.2 HIGHLAND

2.2.1 CARN GLAS CHAMBERED CAIRNS – GORSE REMOVAL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument No 2392 Carn Glas, Chambered Cairns 815m SE of Achvraid, Highland

RECIPIENT

North of Scotland Archaeology Society (NoSAS)

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Removal and disposing of gorse from the above scheduled monument.

BENEFITS

Removal of dense gorse means that the monument will no longer be obscured by vegetation, therefore, greatly improving the monument's condition and the risk of ongoing management issues.

2.2.2 VIEWHILL HOUSE – ENGINEERING REPORT UPDATE

SITE INFORMATION

Listed Building No 7604 Viewhill House, Highland

RECIPIENT

Highland Historic Buildings Trust

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Funding towards the cost of completing a report on the current structural condition of Viewhill House, including comparison to the previous inspection made in 2010.

BENEFITS

The updated structural condition survey has confirmed the building is in poor condition. The walls remain in fair structural condition, despite having had no wallhead protection or propping in over 15 years. We note the conclusions of the report that indicate the building could be restored, however this is largely dependent on remedial measures - the report also says that total collapse is a real risk if these aren't undertaken sufficiently soon. The report will form the basis of forthcoming discussions about the future of this building and urgent next steps required.

2.3 MORAY

2.3.1 BLERVIE CASTLE – PRE-CONTRACT REPORTS

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM5625 Blervie Castle

RECIPIENT

Private individual

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Ecologist survey and preparation of report, preparation of conservation management plan, preparation of documents and illustrations for SMC application for emergency works, pre-contract work.

BENEFITS

This work was carried out to inform and progress proposed stabilisation works which are required following an extensive collapse to part of the castle. The overarching aim of works at the castle is to ensure preservation of the monument, avoiding further collapse and maintaining its cultural significance. However, extensive consolidation is required.

The 2023-24 MMF work consisted largely of desk-based production of documents which are required to progress towards putting temporary measures in place in vulnerable areas of the castle, and to plan towards the proposed full consolidation project.

The Conservation Management Plan includes identification of required works and prioritisation for those works. This will be used to inform a proposed full consolidation plan.

2.3.2 KNOCKANDO HOUSE CHURCH – TREE REMOVAL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM2749 Knockando House Church

RECIPIENT

Knockando Estate

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Two large dead trees that were located on the edge of the Scheduled Area and had been dead for some time were cut down and the felled timber moved outside of the Scheduled Area. As access was limited the work was done using a chainsaw that was carried to site and no other machinery was used.

BENEFITS

To avoid the potential of windblow either fallen branches or the uprooted tree roots damaging the monument and any archaeological deposits or structures.

2.4 ABERDEENSHIRE

2.4.1 MILTON OF WHITEHOUSE SOUTERRAIN – INSTALLATION OF STOCK AND RABBIT FENCES

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument No 2972 Milton of Whitehouse, souterrain 200m NNE of

RECIPIENT

Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

A rabbit and stock proof fence has been erected around the perimeter of the scheduled area and rabbit boxes have been inserted underneath it. The old fence around the souterrain, which was located within the scheduled area, has been taken down and removed.

BENEFITS

The works should significantly reduce the rabbit population living on the scheduled area and prevent their re-invasion in the future. It will also prevent stock getting onto the site and causing further damage when rabbit burrows collapse under them.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 3: Rabbit burrows and old fence around the souterrain prior to commencement of works



Figure 4 New rabbit proof fence installed around perimeter of the scheduled area

2.4.2 LOUDON WOOD STONE CIRCLE – STONE CONSERVATION

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument 29 Loudon Wood, stone circle

RECIPIENT

N/A Directly commissioned work

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Repair of recumbent stone following damage, possibly caused by fire.

BENEFITS

A significant section of stone had fallen off from the recumbent stone - possibly caused by a campfire which had been lit beside it. The chunk had been moved but was still in the vicinity of the recumbent stone setting. The repair had a positive benefit on the condition and integrity of the monument.

2.5 ANGUS

2.5.1 CASTLE ROCK, FORT, AUCHMITHIE – SCRUB CLEARANCE

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM2875 Castle Rock, fort, Auchmithie

RECIPIENT

Seahills Farm

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Clearance of gorse, which was entirely obscuring this promontory fort.

BENEFITS

The risk of deterioration of the archaeological remains due to scrub growth has been reduced. It will also reduce the risk of rabbit burrowing under the dense cover the gorse provided. It also allows appreciation of the form of the monument.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 5 View of the monument prior to works taking place, covered in gorse



Figure 6 A view of the fort after gorse clearance

2.5.2 GUTHRIE COLLEGIATE AISLE – CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND ENGINEER'S REPORT

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument 8965 Guthrie Collegiate Aisle

RECIPIENT

Private Individual

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Conditions assessment and engineer's report

BENEFITS

The report gives a high-level summary outlining the current condition of the monument, and can be used to help identify and prioritise future works.

2.6 PERTH AND KINROSS

2.6.1 OLD LAWERS VILLAGE – VEGETATION REMOVAL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM6280 Old Lawers Village, deserted settlement and burial ground 250m NNE of Lawers Pier

RECIPIENT

Intelihomes (UK) Ltd

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Overhanging branches and saplings growing on wall heads have been cut down. Stumps have been treated to prevent regrowth.

BENEFITS

These works will reduce the risk of damage to building remains through impact damage from branches and root growth. It also allows greater appreciation of the village layout and buildings.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 7 View of the building remains prior to works commencing



Figure 8 View of the monument with trees removed and stumps treated

2.7 FIFE

2.7.1 EARLSFERRY CHAPEL – VEGETATION REMOVAL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM834 Earlsferry, Chapel

RECIPIENT

Elie and Earlsferry History Society

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The area around the chapel has been strimmed to help control an invasion of *Smyrniolum olustratum* (Alexanders).

BENEFITS

The strimming will help to reduce the spread of the weed as it was cut down before shedding its seed. It has also made the standing remains more visible.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 9 View of the Chapel prior to strimming – with *Smyrnium olustratum* visible in the foreground



Figure 10 View of the chapel after strimming

2.8 ARGYLL AND BUTE

2.8.1 KILDALTON CHURCH – GRAVESTONE CONDITION ASSESSMENT

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM13236 Kildalton Church, Church, High Cross, And Cross
60m NE of

RECIPIENT

Younger Conservation Ltd

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The monument contains a large collection of highly important and decorative pieces of sculpture, in addition to the early medieval high cross which is in the care of Scottish Ministers (and not subject to works under this grant). A quinquennial survey of 30 of the most important, sensitive and at risk Late Medieval West Highland and later gravestones within the churchyard took place. This follows previous survey work and minor repairs in 2017. Eight of the stones previously at risk have continued to show gradual decay, despite the conservation work undertaken, largely as a result of moss, lichen, turf and grass cutting build up, increased visitor footfall and lack of regular maintenance. A range of management options have been provided, varying from upping the owner's maintenance regime to building a stone shelter.

BENEFITS

The works have demonstrated the risk to the monument and will enabled an informed discussion of conservation options for the stones and the site as a whole in the future.

2.8.2 TARBERT CASTLE – VEGETATION CONTROL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument 276 Tarbert Castle

RECIPIENT

Tarbert Castle Trust

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

(Ongoing multi-year)

Support for the Trust's small herd of sheep which maintains the castle under an ideal cover of short-cropped grass. The work also includes maintenance of stairs, picnic tables and shelters through weather-proofing and wood treatment, with significant in-kind contribution in volunteer hours.

BENEFITS

The Castle is a popular and well-maintained visitor attraction with a footfall of around 40,000 visitors each year. The sheep keep vegetation across this large site under control in an entirely sustainable way.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 11 Maintenance of pathways and stairs to allow public access to the monument

2.8.3 KILNEUAIR CHURCH – CONSERVATION REPORT

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM269 Kilneuir, church and settlement, 1900m E of Ford

RECIPIENT

Kilneuir Conservation Project

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Production of conservation report

BENEFITS

There has been a rapid decline in the condition of the church in recent years, and this is well documented and evidenced. The oratory is subject to ongoing collapse that has worsened over the last few years. Without intervention across the site, catastrophic collapse is likely within a few years.

A community group has formed to help drive forward positive management works at the monument with the active support of the landowner. The first major step is the production of a conservation report as this enables an approximate project budget to be identified along with a scope of works; this report can now be taken to potential funders, phasing identified, and a costed scheme of works developed to suit the needs of the monument as identified in the conservation report.

2.8.4 ORONSAY PRIORY AND CROSS – CARVED STONE SURVEY

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM287 Oronsay Priory and Cross

RECIPIENT

Colonsay & Oronsay Heritage Trust

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Phase one of two-phase conservation project – report to follow after 2024-25 MMF Programme.

2.8.5 ISLAND I VOW – TREE REMOVAL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM11073 Island I Vow, Castle and settlement, Loch Lomond

RECIPIENT

Elanvow Preservation Fund

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

A two-day programme of selective tree felling on the island. This was targeted towards trees that were at risk of falling and damaging historic masonry. The works were carried out under SMC.

BENEFITS

The works have removed the risk of blunt impacts to significant parts of the monument by removing precarious trees. The removal of these trees also prevents their roots from further disturbing any buried archaeology. Some of the trees, if they had fallen, would likely have pulled their root plates, and any associated archaeology in them, with them. This risk has also been removed by the works.

2.8.6 DUART POINT HMPA – REPLACEMENT SIGNAGE

SITE INFORMATION

HMPA7 Duart Point HMPA

RECIPIENT

N/A Directly commissioned

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The Duart Point Historic Marine Protected Area is the remains of a vessel believed to be that of a 17th century warship – probably the Swan which was sent by Oliver Cromwell as part of a Commonwealth flotilla of ships to capture Duart Castle, Mull, in 1653. It lies in an area which is extremely popular with sport divers.

The previous signage, located on the shoreline near to the wreck, was faded and outdated, but had for many years served as an effective management tool to help prevent accidental damage by celebrating the wreck and informing people of its protected status.

BENEFITS

Replacement and updating of the signage will help to continue to raise awareness of the protected status of the site and therefore help reduce instances of damage.

2.9 WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

2.9.1 CAMERON HOME FARM CHAMBERED CAIRN – CLEARANCE OF WIND BLOW

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM6341 Cameron Home Farm, chambered cairn 720m S of

RECIPIENT

Cameron Home Farm

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

All trees growing on the chambered cairn have been sectionally felled and removed to the edge of the scheduled area. In addition, a large number of wind blown trees were also cut up and disposed of. In total approx. 120 mature conifers have been removed.

BENEFITS

This monument has suffered significant wind blow damage over the last 10 years, with large root plates uplifted from the body of the cairn. It was at risk from further wind blow damage as many trees remained. These works have removed that risk entirely.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 12 Windblown trees on the chambered cairn prior to commencement of works



Figure 13 The chambered cairn after tree removal

2.10 WEST LOTHIAN

2.10.1 GREENDYKES SHALE BING – PROVISION OF WARNING SIGNS

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM6186 Greendykes shale bing, Broxburn

RECIPIENT

Hopetoun Estates

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The site has a long term issue with damage caused by off road motorised trail bikes. The ongoing and increasing use of the bing for off-road motorised trail bikes causes a significant noise disturbance for local residents and does have a cumulative impact on the bing. It also discourages use and access to the bing by the wider public.

Working with the local community, landowners, the local authority and Police Scotland it was suggested that enhanced signage to raise awareness of the protected status of the bing would be a helpful first step in addressing the anti-social behaviour.

A total of 18no A1-sized signs were produced and erected at various access points across the monument.

BENEFITS

Increased awareness of statutory protection of the shale bing as a first step in addressing anti-social behaviour as part of a collaborative project between stakeholders including landowners, neighbours and wider community.

2.11 NORTH AYRSHIRE

2.11.1 KING'S CAVE, TORBEG, BLACKWATERFOOT – LASER SCANNING AND 3D MODELLING

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM410 King's Cave, Torbeg, Blackwaterfoot

RECIPIENT

Private Individual

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Funding of laser scanning, photogrammetry and 3D modelling

BENEFITS

In combination the laser scan, photogrammetry and 3D modelling has provided a robust and sub-millimetre record of the condition of the cave, the carvings within it, and the cliff face and beach outside to provide a baseline for measuring future deterioration. Importantly, this can be viewed as a navigable and colourised 3D model allowing users to explore the cave and view the carvings in relief, under different lighting models.

The work also provided a series of high-resolution point clouds for individual carvings which can be shared as 3D pdfs. and will be of use for raising awareness of the carvings locally in comms.

2.12 SOUTH AYRSHIRE

2.12.1 KEMP LAW FORT – VEGETATION CLEARANCE AND CONTROL

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM304 Kemp Law, Fort

RECIPIENT

Hillhouse Quarry Group

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Clearance of scrub, saplings, overhanging and fallen trees from the fort. Much of the interior of the fort was obscured by a large fallen tree. All arisings have been removed from the scheduled area. Stump treatment has been carried out to prevent regrowth.

BENEFITS

The works have reduced the risk of further deterioration of the fort due to tree growth and allowed greater appreciation of its form.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 14 View of the overgrown fort prior to commencement of works



Figure 15 Remains of the fort after scrub clearance

2.13 SCOTTISH BORDERS

2.13.1 ETTLETON CEMETERY – REPAIR OF CARVED STONE ENCLOSURE

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM2188 Ettleton Cemetery, Tombstones

RECIPIENT

Scottish Borders Council

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Repointing of wall coping and repair of broken iron railings at the carved stone enclosure in Ettleton Cemetery

BENEFITS

Protection of the collection of carved stones.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 16 Completed works showing the repaired enclosure

2.14 DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

2.14.1 CRICHTON PEEL AND SANQUHAR CASTLE – ENGINEER’S INSPECTION & REPORT

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM687 Crichton Peel & Sanquhar Castle

RECIPIENT

Sanquhar Enterprise Company

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Engineer’s inspection and report, and supply of architect’s drawings to engineer

BENEFITS

The conservation engineer’s survey and report provides a condition survey and appraisal for making the existing ruin safe for future potential public access.

2.14.2 CARS WOOD FORT – TREE CLEARANCE

SITE INFORMATION

Scheduled Monument SM648 Cars Wood Fort

RECIPIENT

Private Individual

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Clearance of birch regeneration from interior and enclosing bank of settlement.

BENEFITS

The monument benefits from improved condition, enhanced visibility and access.