



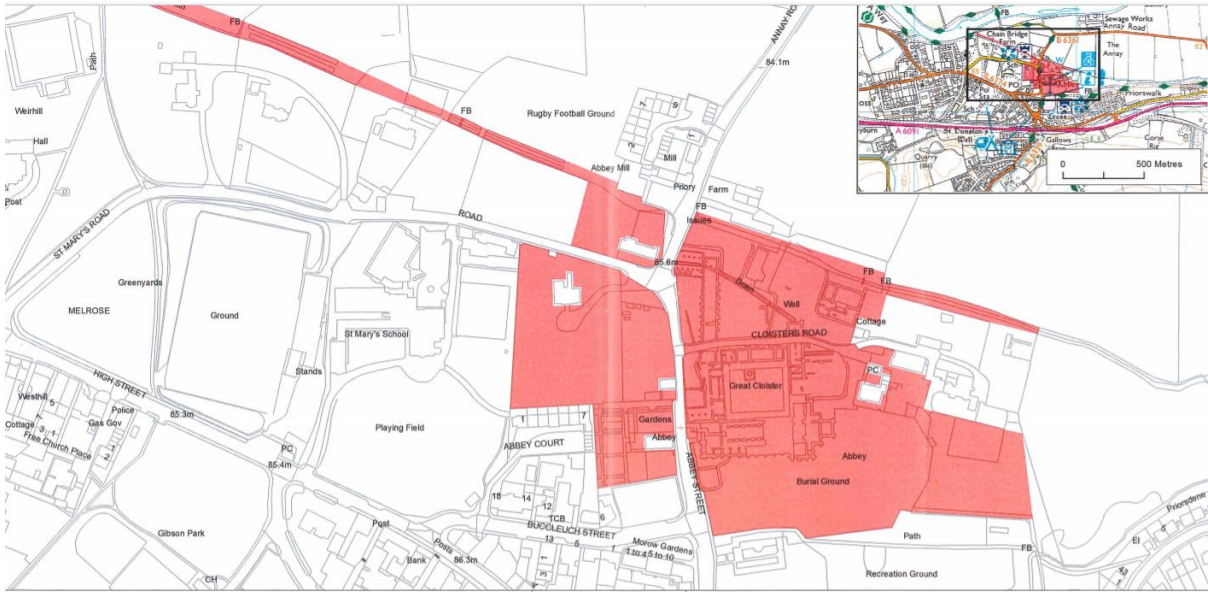
Case reference	SMC-SBD-004
Application details	Blocking of three former openings, enclosing brewery yard on South side, to prevent unauthorised access
Site address	Brewery Yard, Melrose Abbey, Melrose (SM 90214)
Applicant	Historic Environment Scotland - Conservation Directorate
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland - Heritage Directorate (HES)
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	23 June 2020
Date of recommendation	15 July 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the blocking up of three window openings in the southern wall of the Brewery Yard, part of the Melrose Abbey precinct which is looked after by HES on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
- The monument comprises the considerable remains of Melrose Abbey, founded in c. 1136 by King David I. It includes the upstanding remains of the abbey church, the foundations and walls of other monastic buildings and structures, and buried archaeological structures and deposits located below the visible remains and in the surrounding area (See Figure 1 – scheduled area in red). The application relates to the southern wall enclosing the Brewery Yard, a largely postmediaeval structure relating to the industrial use of the yard (see Figure 2).
- The monument is of national importance because it makes a significant addition to the understanding and appreciation of medieval abbeys. The upstanding ruins retain their structural and decorative characteristics and there are associated buried archaeological remains below and around them with high potential to enhance knowledge and understanding of the site.

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during HES' consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) following notification. They consider the proposed SMC does not raise any specific issues of national importance and will allow greater security for the monument in a reversible and clearly identifiable manner.



Designation Reference: SM90214
Melrose Abbey

Parish: Melrose
Scheduled Area

Map Sheet(s):
NT53SW

Scale: 1:2,000

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Scottish Charity No. SC045925

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Figure 1 – Melrose Abbey precinct above

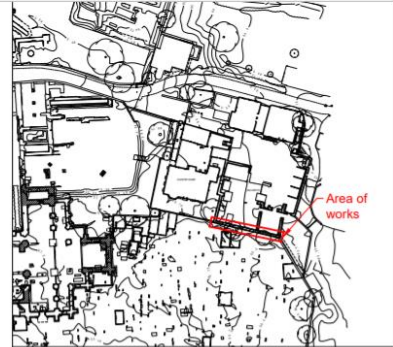
Figure 2 - Location of Brewery Yard works below



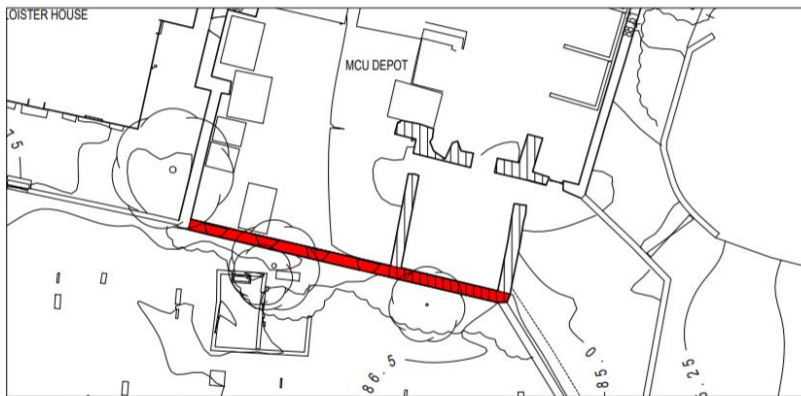
IMAGE OF CURRENT UNBLOCKED WINDOWS

Windows to be blocked up

3 window openings to be blocked to prevent unwanted access to the MCU yard. Whitehill bricks to be used to create distinction between existing stone work and new blocked window.




SITE PLAN 1:1000 @ A3



PLAN SHOWING S WALL - 1:200 @ A3

SMC

MONUMENT	Melrose Abbey
PROJECT	Brewery Yard - South Wall Blocking of 3 Window Openings
 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA	
PROJECT DRAWING NUMBER	MA-BY-WB-01
SCALE	As Shown @A3
DATE	April 2020
ARCHITECT	P Ranson
DRAWN BY	G McGowan
ARCHIVE NUMBER	

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) Heritage Directorate are minded to grant SMC for the blocking up of three former window openings which impacts on the Scheduled Monument as the addition and fixing of new 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 under the care of Scottish Ministers. It is accompanied by a detailed Project Design that sets out a well-considered and appropriate methodology for the works. All work will be carried out by the HES Monument Conservation Unit.
3. The proposed works involve the bricking up former window openings in the southern wall of the Brewery Yard for reasons of safety (to prevent people climbing into the yard from the adjacent graveyard risking their health and safety) and to increase the security and decrease risk of damage to and theft from the abbey buildings in the Brewery Yard. The physical impact of the works would be the reversible addition of modern brick blockings and lime mortar, within existing window openings, to a largely post-mediaeval wall, which already has multiple phases of alteration and blocking up. Although the works would result in a change to the physical fabric of the monument, this has been assessed by HES as not extensive.
4. As part of previously consented works by HES to repair the wall, the sole remaining window frame was partly replicated and replaced with new infill brickwork being inserted above the replica window. The new blockings would use the same modern Whitehill brick infill used previously, which would be clearly identifiable in order to distinguish them from earlier phases of blocking up and alterations made in stone.
5. HES believe the proposed works are not the minimum required for the preservation of the monument, but are minor and justified on health and safety grounds and security grounds. The works would be easily readable as modern interventions, but would not detract from the multi-phase industrial character of this part of the monument. It is, therefore, concluded that the works would have a minimal impact on the monument's cultural significance.
6. HES consider the proposed works do not conflict with their Scheduled Monument Policy 1 and are compliant with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1 as the application is carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, and properly planned. However, further information on the timescale of works, to ensure they are appropriate, would be required in advance of the works to enable compliance with Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4. HES recommend that a condition of consent is imposed to clarify the timetable for works. The proposal is also concluded to be 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.