

# Council of the Isles of Scilly

## Planning Application

Ref:  
P/21/051/FUL

**RECEIVED**  
By Emma Kingwell at 3:34 pm, Oct 06, 2021

The following planning applications have been made by the Council of the Isles of Scilly and are accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement is a joint document that covers all three sites and is listed with the documents on the webpage for P/21/049/FUL. Links to the statement are also included in this document below.

## Consultation Request

<b>PLANNING REFERENCE</b>	P/21/051/FUL
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:</b>	Raising of the existing dune at the eastern end of Porth Hellick Bank to match the existing dune profile, new vehicular access ramp through the new section of dune onto the beach. Formalising beach access track at southern end. (EIA Development).
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Porth Hellick Beach, Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly
<b>WEBPAGE:</b>	<a href="https://www.scilly.gov.uk/planning-application/planning-application-p21051ful">https://www.scilly.gov.uk/planning-application/planning-application-p21051ful</a>

**Consultee Name: Cornwall Archaeological Unit**

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### **P/21/051/FUL: Porth Hellick**

Further to our advice provided on 8th September 2021, additional information has come to light about the potential for human buried remains and other features in the area of the memorial to Sir Cloudesly Shovell (MCO31403); this information is not considered in the submitted HIA or included within the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER).

The burial of other sailors drowned in 1707 in the sand behind Porth Hellick is alluded to on Sir Cloudesly Shovell's memorial in Westminster Abbey which reads, 'His body was flung to the shore, And buried with others in the sands' (see <http://aboutscilly.com/sir-cloudesley-shovell-scilly-naval-disaster-1707/>). The dead are likely to have been buried in groups in pits as is documented for comparable contemporary burial sites.

The body of Sir Cloudesly Shovell was buried in the dunes at Porth Hellick but later moved to Westminster Abbey in London. His 'grave' was photographed by the Gibson family (although this could have been a fanciful reconstruction) and was noted on the c1880 and c1908 Ordnance Survey maps, the position of which appears to broadly correspond with the present monument, which was first documented in 1912.

Any groundworks associated with the construction of the new defences and the removal of the memorial to Sir Cloudesly Shovell have the potential to reveal traces of the 'grave' depicted in the late 19th/early 20th centuries and buried human remains of shipwrecked sailors.

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We therefore consider it prudent that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the early stages of groundworks, undertaken by a suitably qualified organisation or individual. We would advise, for the above reasons, that any consent issued should carry the condition as worded below of sections A-D inclusive (please do not split into separate Conditions or treat separately), which includes words recommended by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), as follows:

A) No groundworks or removal of the Sir Cloudesly Shovell memorial shall take place until a programme of archaeological recording work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and:

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

B) No groundworks associated with the defences or removal of the Sir Cloudesly Shovell memorial shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed.

A pre-commencement condition is necessary in this instance due to the need to ensure that a programme and methodology of site investigation and recording of archaeological features is undertaken before physical works commence on site. This is in accordance with the provisions of NPPF (2021) Chapter 16, paragraph 205 and Isles of Scilly 2015-2030 Local Plan, policy OE7.

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**Name: Peter Dudley**

**Date: 06/10/2021**