



## Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018545		
Scheduled Monument	Holyrood Abbey, precinct and associated remains		
Index no	SM13031	Grid ref	NT 26900 73900
Date application validated	05 October 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Holyrood Palace Gardens - Forming a services trench with access chamber for power supply.		

## 1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted.

## 2. Background

The monument comprises the remains of Holyrood Abbey and precinct, which also incorporates elements of the gardens and buildings surrounding the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Holyrood Abbey was founded in 1128 by the Augustinian order. As the importance of the Abbey grew, so did its royal patronage, with the guest accommodation for the Abbey developing into a royal palace under the aegis of James IV. By the mid-16th century, the Palace was the principle royal residence in Scotland, a status it enjoys to this day. At the same time, the Abbey was dissolved during the Reformation, although the Abbey church saw reuse as the parochial church for the Canongate burgh, then as the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle until the roof collapsed in 1768, after which it was abandoned.

The scheduled area is irregular in shape, covering the current enclosed area of the Palace grounds. The scheduling designation incorporates a large number of exclusions including the above ground elements of all buildings, sheds and their floors, except for the upstanding remains of Holyrood Abbey and Queen Mary's Bath. The above ground elements of all boundary walls, gates, railings, street furniture, statues, sundials, fountains and structures built after 1950 are also excluded, as are the top 500mm of North Carriage Drive and Abbey Strand roads and the top 300mm of all other surfaced roads.

The monument is of national importance for its inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of a prominent medieval abbey



and the origins and development of what became the principal royal palace in Scotland from the early 16th century onwards. The remains of Holyrood Abbey represent evidence for one of Scotland's foremost medieval monastic houses, adapted and modified at the Reformation. In the vicinity and beneath the present palace building are significant remains of early structures that have the potential to increase our understanding of the palace's construction, development and use, and its evolving relationship with adjacent structures, especially Holyrood Abbey. The existing garden and its archaeology have the potential to expand our knowledge of the post-Reformation use of Church lands and the post-union use of Crown lands. The site's varied and well-preserved buried archaeology can also provide information about the economy and trading contacts of the abbey and palace.

This application will impact on the southern section of the garden at the Palace. The application is for the creation of a new electrical service trench to provide power for facilities relating to events at the palace, particularly the annual Garden Parties. It has been submitted by Historic Environment Scotland's Conservation Directorate.

The application is accompanied by a services location plan and a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

### 3. Proposals

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Installation of a new service trench and access chamber for power supply.

- Excavation of a service trench approximately 300mm wide by 300mm deep by 10m long.
- Excavation of hole approximately 700mm by 700mm by 400mm deep for service access chamber.
- Construction of service access chamber; brick and concrete construction with metal manhole cover.
- Installation of electrical power cable within trench and backfilling of trench.
- Archaeological monitoring of works.

The new service route and chamber will extend an existing power supply to provide a safe and convenient electrical connection point for events in the Palace gardens such as the annual Garden Parties. The existing arrangements for provision of electricity at such events involve running cables above ground from the existing access chamber to the point where they are needed on the lawn. While the risk of trip accidents, power loss etc. from such an arrangement can be mitigated to a large degree, an underground supply would be inherently safer and more reliable.



Works will be carried out by Historic Environment Scotland's Monument Conservation Unit, with archaeological monitoring, excavation and recording to be conducted by Kirkdale Archaeology.

## 4. Representations received

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None

## 5. Report

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### 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.

#### Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

3.14. A monument is included in the schedule to secure the long-term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the state it has come down to us. 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, in terms set out in the section on Scheduling in Chapter 2 of this policy statement that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

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

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

3.18. Scheduled monument consent applications must be considered in terms of the cultural significance of the monument and the impact that the proposals would have upon this cultural significance. The more important particular features of the monument are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.



3.20. Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

## **b) Assessment**

The works will result in the physical disturbance of ground to a maximum depth of approximately 400mm within the gardens at Holyrood Palace. While this disturbance has the potential to impact on archaeological features and artefacts relating to the development of the Abbey and the Palace and its gardens, the areas involved have been subject to significant disturbance through landscaping and gardening activity in the past. The dimensions of the areas to be excavated are restricted to the minimum possible to achieve the project aims. Given the size of the excavated areas relative to the overall size of the monument, and their location in an area of comparatively low archaeological potential, the works should not have a material effect on the monument's overall archaeological value or cultural significance.

The application is supported by a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological works which sets out a well-considered and appropriate methodology. This scheme will ensure that any potential disturbance to archaeological deposits can be identified and dealt with appropriately.

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

None

## **d) Conclusion**

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement.

I am content that the works described in this application will result in minimal disturbance to archaeological deposits and will not significantly alter the appearance or setting of the monument. As such I consider they will have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument, in accordance with sections 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy Statement.

I consider the application provides specific justification for the works, in accordance with section 3.17 of the Policy Statement.

I am content that the documentation supporting the application, including the Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording, is sufficiently detailed to show that the proposals have been carefully considered, based on good

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authority, sensitively designed and properly planned, in compliance with section 3.20 of the Policy Statement.

Consequently, no conditions are necessary.

## 6. Recommended decision

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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

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No conditions have been attached to this decision.

## 8. Approval

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<b>Case officer</b>	Deirdre Cameron	<b>Date</b>	29 November 2016
<b>Approved by</b>	George Findlater	<b>Date</b>	29 November 2016

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Services location plan (2016-17-(9)-001)
- Written Statement of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Holyrood Palace (Kirkdale Archaeology, 30 September 2016)