



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018794		
Scheduled Monument	Edinburgh Castle		
Index no	SM90130	Grid ref	NT 24900 73400
Date application validated	01 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Replacement of Clock Tower Flagpole		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the replacement of the Clock Tower flag pole be granted with conditions.

2. Background

The monument is Edinburgh Castle and comprises all the buildings and other structures, wells, fortifications, street furniture, historic plaques, roadways, yards, and other open spaces that form Edinburgh Castle.

This includes:

- a. The courtyard known as Crown Square with its surrounding buildings - the Palace on the East including vaults which includes the clock tower (remodelled in its present form c.1617)

The later addition of the upper part of the tower in the early 19th century reflects changing attitudes to the use and presentation of Edinburgh Castle. Though the 19th century addition is more utilitarian in appearance when compared to the ogee roof of the north tower, it is nevertheless a significant element of the palace block's development history. Architecturally, it is a notable late addition by the military to the site at a time when the role and image of Edinburgh Castle was beginning to change.



b. The area above Foog's Gate known as the Citadel, encircled by artillery fortifications of various periods from the 15th to the 17th centuries.

c. The area below the Citadel.

The scheduled area is irregular, including all of the above features and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with the Castle, such as outer fortifications, siege works or temporary workshops, may survive. The area scheduled measures a maximum of 500m WSW-ENE by 255m transversely.

The monument is of national importance because of its supreme historical, architectural, archaeological and cultural significance.

It is the upper levels of the Clock Tower and flag pole in Crown Square, including the stair, stonework and timber in the upper floor decks that this application relates to. The application is for the shortening and replacement of the flagpole and associated access. It follows previous discussions around health and safety of the maintenance of the flag pole and a building recording survey. It has been submitted by Defence Infra-structure Organisation.

The application is accompanied by architects' and engineers' drawings and a building report by Kirkdale Archeology.

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

- The erection of scaffold to access the clock tower
- The removal of the existing flagpole and replacement
- The strengthening and trimming of timber joists on the floor decks to allow the installation of the flagpole
- Increase in width of pockets in stonework to house increased timber joists
- Associated access works
- Fixing of base shoe for flag pole

Consented works – the replacement of the Clock Tower flag pole. This involves replacing the existing tubular steel flagpole with new GRP flagpole in location to the side of the previous flagpole. Old pole to be replaced due to deterioration of existing fabric, with the new pole to be a reduced height, enabling safe access and maintenance.

- The erection of scaffold to access the clock tower: Scaffold affixed using Apollo scaffold screw fixings into the existing mortar beddings and clear of any window



openings. Methodology states that under no circumstances would fixings be made into stonework.

- The sectional removal of the existing flagpole: flagpole to be cut down from the head
- The replacement of the existing flag pole with a shorter 120mm GRP pole, and 100mm x 6mm collar.
- The strengthening and trimming of timber joists and fixing of new timber trimmer joists with mount faced joint hangers to allow the installation of the flagpole
- Increase in width of pockets in stonework to house increased timber trimmer joists
- Removal and replacement of existing safety rail
- Infill of existing floor void
- Relocation of existing access steps utilising existing unit
- Creation of new access hatch
- Fixing of base shoe for flag pole, with a base cushion to protect the stone tread whilst lowered.

The works are proposed due to deterioration of existing fabric of the flag pole, and the need to enable safe access for maintenance.

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

5. Report

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.

Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

Part 1 Section 2 (4) – allows consent to be granted with conditions.



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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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
- b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;
- c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
- d. that the management and execution of alteration, including remedial work, is sympathetic to the historic character;
- e. that appropriate skills and techniques, materials and construction techniques are specified where appropriate;
- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- g. that it is possible, on close inspection, to differentiate new work from old



particularly on masonry structures;

h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects; and

i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the replacement of the Clock Tower flag pole. This is intended to allow safe access to and maintenance of the flag pole.

The proposed alterations and installation of a new flagpole into the stair tower will have a minimal impact overall.

Whilst the proposal to increase the existing joist sockets will have some direct impact on the Clock Tower's historic masonry, this is considered to be the minimum necessary.

The works to the joists and the flag pole, including associated access, will have no impact upon the 17th century fabric of the stair tower, as the proposed works are to the 19th century additions to the upper levels of the palace block, with minor direct impact to the existing timber flooring and wall panelling on these levels.

The physical impact of these works on the monument and its cultural significance would be comparatively minor, and would allow for the safe operation and maintenance of the flag pole.

If the works as set out in the application are not undertaken with some urgency then there is a likelihood that the structural integrity of the flagpole will continue to deteriorate, and there would be a risk to public safety.

The application has been accompanied by a detailed Project Design that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology.

Further information is required to ensure that intervention to the timbers and stonework pockets of the proposed works is appropriate. To ensure this it is recommended that a suspensive condition outlining the detailed methodology and recording of these works is applied.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.



d) Conclusion

The works, comprising the replacement of the Clock Tower flag pole, are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works have been proposed in order to ensure the long term preservation of the monument and so are justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 because it has demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

However further consultation with HES would be required in advance of the works, and it is possible that the detail of the scheme would need to be revised as an outcome. Conditions covering the further consultation with HES and recording of the works are required to enable the application to be fully compliant with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement.

In order to ensure the works comply with the policy statement conditions as outlined in paragraph 3.22 are considered necessary.

Condition 1 is to ensure the works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

It is recommended that consent is **granted subject to the condition detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. No works to expand the stone pockets will take place until full details of the proposed works have been approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland.

Reason: to ensure that work will be carried out to a standard acceptable to Historic Environment Scotland and impacts on the monument are minimised.



8. Approval

Case officer	Hazel Johnson	Date	24 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	24 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Site Location Plan – Ref: 400 – 001
- Existing Elevations 1 – Ref: 400 – 200
- Existing Elevation 2 - Ref: 400 – 201
- Proposed Elevations 1 – Ref: 400 – 210
- Proposed Elevations 2 – Ref: 400 - 211
- Floor Plans and Sections as Existing - Ref: 400_010
- Floor Plans and Sections as Proposed - Ref: 400_020
- Edinburgh Castle Clock Tower/Existing and Proposed Plans and Sections - Ref: 9057-01