

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201504265		
Scheduled Monument	Edinburgh Castle		
Index no	M90130	Grid Ref	NT249734 324900.0000 673400.0000
Date of Application	08 October 2015	Application Received	08 October 2015
Summary of proposed works	Installation of hardware for the provision of WiFi within the Castle		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval.

2. Background

The monument comprises all the buildings and other structures, wells, fortifications, street furniture, historic plaques, roadways, yards, and other open spaces that form Edinburgh Castle. In this particular case, the works will affect the Gatehouse, castle shop, water Tanks, Palace, and Barracks Block.

There have been pre-application discussions between HES staff and Intechology WiFi, as the contractors for the City of Edinburgh Council. That meeting confirmed that the works would require scheduled monument consent. This application accords with the outcome of these discussions.

3. Proposals

Installation of hardware for the provision of WiFi within Edinburgh Castle.

The works are to install four WiFi points around the Castle. The works form part of wider city wide project to provide free WiFi. The works will include fixings of mounts in mortar or modern fabric around the castle. Cat 5e cable runs will follow mortar

joints for fixings. The antenna and other equipment has been located behind parapets or other parts of the buildings to minimise visual impact.

4. Representations received

Historic Environment Scotland, through their Internal Scheme of Delegation for Scottish Ministers, are content with the works.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be viewed with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2 - Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy

3.14. Scottish Ministers include a monument 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 SHEP, 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.

3.18. 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 the monument, reversible.

b) Assessment

As the fixings are mostly in mortar joints or modern materials, the works will have minimal impact on historic fabric. Additionally, the equipment will have little visual impact from almost all locations around the castle.

The application documents outlines in detail the fixings points and cable runs.

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

None

d) Conclusion

As the works have minimal intrusive and visual impact, I consider that policy at 3.14 is met. The proposals have been carefully considered and outlined in sufficient detail such that policy at 3.20 is met. Consequently, I consider that no conditions are required.

6. Recommended decision

I recommend consent is **granted**.

The works proposed are acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material consequences.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	George Findlater	Date	30/11/2015
Approved by	John Raven	Date	02/12/2015

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Edinburgh Castle Scheduled Monument Consent Report October 2015