

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201504617		
Scheduled Monument	Edinburgh Castle		
Index no	M90130	Grid Ref	NT249734 324900.0000 673400.0000
Date of Application	21 October 2015	Application Received	21 October 2015
Summary of proposed works	Removal of two brick and plaster dividing walls in the unisex toilets at the north wing of the Barrack Block		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the removal of two brick and plaster dividing walls within the unisex toilets in the north wing of level 2 building 6 (Barracks Block) at Edinburgh Castle be granted without conditions.

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 element of the monument to be affected is the Barracks Block.

There have been pre-application discussions between HES staff and the agents for the MOD. That meeting confirmed that the works would require scheduled monument clearance. This application accords with the outcome of these discussions.

3. Proposals

Consented Works - Removal of two brick and plaster dividing walls in the unisex toilets at the north wing of the Barrack Block

The works proposed are as follows:

1: Down takings-

- Disconnect and isolate any electrical supplies as required and isolate any hot, cold and central heating pipes as required.
- Remove all surplus sanitary wear and associated drainage and pipework as per drawings and make good floors and walls.
- Demolish brick and plaster walls as per drawing and make good floor and walls.
- Demolish stud walls as per drawings and make good walls and floors.
- Remove all debris to skip.

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 an individual monument, reversible.

b) Assessment

The proposed works will result in the removal of an internal brick and plaster partition wall which is likely to have been a later addition to the building. The works proposed are unlikely to result in loss of any original fabric and therefore will not affect the cultural significance of the monument.

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

There are no other material considerations.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works will not impact upon original fabric from the late 18th century Barrack Block and are confined to removal of later additions.

The works can therefore be considered as the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument, and thus compliant with SHEP 3.16.

The majority of the works are being undertaken to later additions to the Barracks Block and will no impact upon original fabric. Therefore I am content that the application is in line with SHEP 3.18 and SHEP 3.20 and that there is little potential for impact on the areas of the monument of greatest cultural significance.

6. Recommended decision

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

No conditions are required.

8. Approval

Officer	Rory McDonald	Date	14/12/2015
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	14/12/2015

Annex A – list of supporting documents

AWS 167: Location Plan

AWS 167: Floor Plan