

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201505389		
Scheduled Monument	Edinburgh Castle		
Index no	M90130	Grid Ref	NT249734 324900.0000 673400.0000
Date of Application	19 November 2015	Application Received	23 November 2015
Summary of proposed works	Removal of the existing access control kiosk and replacement with a new kiosk		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for demolition of existing kiosk and replacement with new kiosk without conditions

2. Background

The existing kiosk sits at the entrance to the Castle Esplanade. The Esplanade and slopes form part of the scheduled monument of Edinburgh Castle.

There has been pre-application discussion with Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Conservation Directorate which outlined the principle of the works and the information required to submit with an application. The application accords with the outcome of that meeting.

The proposed development also required planning permission. A consultation was received from City of Edinburgh Council on 18 November 2015 (ref 15/05181/FUL). Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate raised no objection and noted the requirement for scheduled monument consent (Ref 2015045304).

3. Proposals

Consented works – Removal of the existing access control kiosk and replacement with a new kiosk

Removal of the existing access control kiosk

Laying of new base and erection of new kiosk on same footprint

Archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

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

Demolition of the existing base and installation of a new foundation layer will involve ground breaking to a proposed depth of 450mm. Given the deep foundations of the Esplanade it is unlikely that underlying archaeological feature will be uncovered during these works. A watching brief has been proposed as mitigation.

The new kiosk will be larger than the existing kiosk and will have consequent greater visual impacts. In the immediate area it will partially obscure, when viewed from the Castle, an adjacent wall pier which forms part of the Esplanade wall. In the wider area, especially when viewed from the Castlehill approach, the kiosk will not be more dominant than the existing one. Therefore I do not consider the impact is significantly adverse.

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 SHEP 3.15 is met. The proposals, and archaeological mitigation strategy 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 the protection of scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	George Findlater	Date	15/01/2016
Approved by	Aonghus MacKechnie	Date	15/01/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Design and Access Statement – October 2015

Written Scheme of Investigation - 5 November 2015

Drawing 130B112015-PLA001

Drawing 130B112015-PLA002

Drawing 130B112015-PLA003

Drawing 130B112015-PLA004

Drawing 130B112015-PLA005

Drawing 130B112015-PLA006

Drawing 130B112015-PLA007

Drawing 130B112015-PLA008

Drawing 130B112015-PLA009

Drawing 130B112015-PLA0010