

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201506413		
Scheduled Monument	Turnberry Castle		
Index no	M6183	Grid Ref	NS196072 219600.0000 607200.0000
Date of Application	06 January 2016	Application Received	12 January 2016
Summary of proposed works	Formation of a bunker in modern made ground at the 9 th Green of Turnberry Golf Course		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval with one condition.

2. Background

The monument comprises the ruined foundations of a substantial masonry castle of probable 13th-century origin. The castle was the childhood home, and possibly the birthplace, of King Robert I, "The Bruce".

The castle occupies a strong position on a rocky promontory. It includes: the remains of a stout enclosing wall, the remains of two entrances on the seaward side, a defended entrance on the landward side, various internal walls and a wide ditch encircling the landward side. A lighthouse and various ancillary structures were constructed within the castle during the 19th century.

The scheduled area measures a maximum of 140m N-S by 145m and includes all the castle wall foundations and associated archaeological levels, but excludes the lighthouse and all the associated buildings with their yards and fences. Because modern deposits associated with the lighthouse are specifically excluded, whilst medieval deposits are specifically included in the scheduling documentation, this creates a grey area related to intermediate or naturally occurring activity.

The monument is of national importance because it comprises the substantial remains of what must have been a significant, well-fortified castle of 13th-century date with associated archaeological levels, which appear to be well-preserved and

considerable. Secondly, the monument is closely associated with one of the great figures in Scottish history, King Robert I (the Bruce), who may have been born in the castle and certainly spent his childhood there.

A previous application for consent related to the creation of the 9th Green and was granted with conditions in August 2015 (Case Ref. 201502028). The grant of consent included a condition (No.1) related to a Post-Construction Management Plan and another that required the provision of an archaeological report within 3 months of the completion of site works (No.6).

The proposal has been subject to pre-application discussions with Historic Environment Scotland.

3. Proposals

It is proposed to create two new bunkers on the west side of the 9th Green. Only the northern part of one of the bunkers extends into the scheduled area.

The depth of the proposed bunker is limited and excavations to create it would not extend below material imported in late 2015. Hence the excavations would not penetrate below the former ground surface.

The excavation would be undertaken by a tracked excavator and monitored by an archaeologist to ensure the former ground surface is not disturbed.

The excavated material would be stockpiled outside of the scheduled area.

The walls of the bunker would be formed using local turf (sourced from outside the scheduled area). The bunker would be filled with imported bunker sand and topsoil spread to a depth of 150mm over the bunker surrounds.

Appended sections and plans show the location and proposed levels of the bunker; heights would not exceed those of the current ground level.

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:

AMAAA 1979 and SHEP

SHEP sets out the relevant considerations to be taken into account when assessing applications for change at scheduled monuments:

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.

3.17. 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 proposed work would create a bunker partly within the scheduled monument and on the fringes of a newly created 9th green; the creation of the green received scheduled monument consent in August 2015.

Excavations for the bunker would not extend below modern material imported and deposited in order to create the new green. An archaeologist would be present on site during excavations to ensure they did not extend below the former ground surface. Therefore, the creation of the bunker should have no construction impacts on sub-surface archaeological deposits associated with the scheduled monument. The proposed bunker is not in an area where upstanding remains are present. Previous excavations nearby also suggests that there are few surviving sub-surface deposits in this area.

The form and nature of the proposed bunkers are such that it is unlikely that visual impacts would have a significant adverse effect on the significance of the scheduled monument.

It can be concluded that the creation of part of the proposed bunker in the scheduled area would not be likely to affect the cultural significance of the castle.

There is some potential for alterations to the bunker at a later date (for example, the replacement of sand within it). The Method Statement does not contain proposed measures that would prevent excavations associated with any such works extending below the former ground surface and hence having an adverse impact on sub-surface archaeological remains.

A permeable barrier such as a geotextile membrane laid in the base of the proposed bunker would create a lasting marker at the interface of bunker sand and the former ground surface, which would reduce the likelihood of any future excavations extending into undisturbed deposits. Such a measure could be set out in a condition should consent be granted.

Conditions relating to the consent granted for the creation of the 9th green included one relating to a Post-Construction Management Plan and one to the provision of an archaeological report within 3 months of completion of site works (No.6), during pre-application discussions it was outlined that any future management of these additional works would be subject to the conditions set out in the same Management Plan. This is not outlined in the application so a condition has been added to specify this.

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

Scottish Natural Heritage have been consulted on the application as it lies adjacent to the Turnberry Dunes SSSI. They have confirmed that they are content for the development to proceed in line with the supplied Method Statement.

d) Conclusion

The proposals have been sensitively designed so that the potential for direct impacts upon archaeological remains associated with the castle are likely to be low. The level of visual impact is also unlikely to be meaningful. The impact on the monument's cultural significance could consequently be considered minimal.

The longer term management of the monument could be affected by future changes to the proposed bunker. In order to provide a proportionate response to this risk a condition could be applied that required the placing of a geotextile separating layer at the base of the bunker and over the former ground surface. This would create a permeable barrier that would reduce the risk of future interventions extending deeper than the former ground surface.

6. Recommended decision

I recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

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.

7. Conditions

1. A geotextile separating layer should be placed at the base of the excavated bunker prior to the deposition of bunker sand.

Reason: to provide an identifiable marker between new and existing deposits in order reduce the risk of any future works associated with the proposed bunker extending below the level of the former ground surface and having an impact on sub-surface remains within the scheduled monument.

2. All future management of the bunker will be subject to the specifications of the *Turnberry Castle and Lighthouse Archaeological Management Plan, July 2015*, submitted by Peter Drummond to Historic Scotland on 24 August 2015, as amended by the revised plans/drawings, submitted by Peter Drummond to Historic Scotland on 11 September 2015.

Reason: to ensure that any management and future works are carried out in such a way as any impacts on sub-surface archaeological deposits are minimised.

8. Approval

Officer	Simon Stronach	Date	18/01/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	19/01/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Method Statement for the Proposed 9th Bunker Construction on the Ailsa Course at Turnberry January 2016
- New 9th Bunkers – Proposals Plan
- New 9th Bunkers – Section Plan