

Historic Environment Scotland

Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba

BOTHWELL CASTLE, CELLARS BELOW GREAT HALL RANGE PROPOSED LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN NORTH & MID CELLARS

ANNEX A SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Bothwell Castle is one of the outstanding buildings of the medieval period in Scotland. This application relates to the North and Mid Cellars within the C15 Great Hall Range. These spaces are largely intact, retaining their vaulted ceilings and provide reasonably dry enclosed accommodation following recent Great Hall floor waterproofing above.
2. The site is a staffed Historic Scotland site open to the public attracting around 10,000 visitors annually. The north cellar houses a stone display open to the general public. The mid cellar provides a meeting and education space for school and other groups, and is also used for wedding ceremonies in inclement weather.
3. The North Cellar is lit by a now life expired spotlight track fixed to the ceiling vault. Supply wiring is surface run, white sheathed and with its white plastic switch by the door is a little unsightly. Replacement of the spotlight track with a similar type and improvements to wiring and switching arrangements is proposed to achieve a less visually intrusive appearance.
4. The Mid Cellar is lit by a temporary lighting installation comprising improvised timber boxes on the floor housing 110 Volt bulkhead fittings to give uplighting, with flex supplies lying around the edge of the floor, all fed from a transformer. This arrangement is utilitarian, unsightly and transformer hum is intrusive. Provision of a spotlight track fixed to the vault and new supply wiring and switching arrangements is proposed to provide an installation suited to this Cellar's use which is also sympathetic to the space historic fabric.
5. At both North and Mid Cellar entrance doorways, a combination of external steps, low doorway headroom, uneven thresholds and steps surface and change from bright external conditions to darker interior have been assessed as posing a risk to Visitor safety when entering and exiting. Indeed in 2012 a schoolgirl suffered a serious ankle injury at the Mid Cellar doorway. Provision of directional light fittings at low level by the internal steps to improve illumination here, fed by new supply wiring is proposed. Handrails are also proposed at steps and are the subject of a separate SMC application.
6. A combination of carefully routed surface cable runs runs and ragging into suitably wide masonry joints is proposed as appropriate to minimise visual intrusion whilst also ensuring minimal physical impact on historic fabric. Existing cable routings between Mid and North Cellars through existing holes at the large crack / recess, resulting from discontinuity in the historic build between the west elevation and cellar partition, will be reused when running new supplies.
7. Any existing electrical accessory and cable fixings into masonry made redundant by these works are to be carefully removed – provisionally drilled out where corrosion renders this necessary - with holes left or made good with lime mortar.

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8. The HES Natural Environment Adviser has inspected the North and Mid Cellars and has concluded that these spaces are not used by bats so works are not deemed to impact on these European Protected Species

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