

## Case information

<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201505920		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Earl's Palace, Kirkwall		
<b>Index no</b>	M90194	<b>Grid Ref</b>	HY449107 344900.0000 1010700.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	14 December 2015	<b>Application Received</b>	14 December 2015
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	The installation of a new lectern mounted A1 sized interpretation board.		

### 1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the installation of a new interpretation board.

### 2. Background

The Earl's Palace was built by Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney, between 1601 and 1607. It includes a first-floor hall, with an outer and an inner chamber, along with various other guest chambers, set above a service basement including a kitchen.

As well as being scheduled, the monument is a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers. During the Annual Monument Audit of May 2015, the applicant discussed the proposals and engaged in pre-application discussions. The board forms part of a wider scheme of interpretation replacement at Historic Environment Scotland properties by the Interpretation Unit to replace outdated and faded signage, and address gaps in on-site interpretation.

### 3. Proposals

Consented works: Installation of a new lectern mounted A1 sized interpretation board.

The proposed additional works to the monument comprise the installation of a new lectern mounted A1 sized interpretation board in the location shown on Phase 1 signage schedule (BEP01). The new board aims to introduce and orient visitors to the adjacent Bishop's Palace, which is also a Property in the Care, and to enhance the visitor experience.

### 4. Representations received

No representations were received.

### 5. Report

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**a) Policy considerations**

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

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.

3.20. 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 installation of a new lectern will have a physical impact on the monument as it will require ground disturbance to a depth of about 450mm. However, this impact has been assessed in relation to the cultural significance of the monument, and it is likely that there has been previous ground disturbance in the past from landscaping and the construction of the path. Therefore, the potential impact on the historic fabric of the monument is considered to be minimal and a watching brief is proposed to ensure that these ground breaking works are appropriately monitored and recorded by a professional archaeologist.

The installation of a new board in this location also has the potential to have an indirect (setting) impact on the monument. However, in view of the proposed size and location of the board, we consider that it is unlikely that this would have a significant impact on its setting, and will not interrupt key views.

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

There will not be any significant impacts on Protected Species and Places.

The monument is a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers which is operated by Historic Environment Scotland as a visitor attraction.

**d) Conclusion**

The proposed works are compliant with Section 3.16 of the SHEP in that they are the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. The proposals have been carefully considered, and the potential impact on the cultural significance of the monument is considered to be justified.

The works have also been carefully considered in order to mitigate any physical and visual impacts. However, a archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is not included with the application. To ensure compliance with Section 3.20 of SHEP a suspensive condition has been recommended require a WSI . I therefore consider that consent can be granted, subject to the condition detailed below.

**6. Recommended decision**

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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. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland (a Project Design). This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved development.

*Reason: to ensure that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.*

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## 8. Approval

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Nicola Hall</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>24/12/2015</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>George Findlater</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>29/1/2015</b>

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

Scheduled area plan (30 July 1998)

Signage schedule (16 September 2015)

Assessment of archaeological sensitivity (18 September 2015)

Lectern details (A4 sheet)