

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201506860		
Scheduled Monument	East Fortune, airfield		
Index no	M4804	Grid Ref	NT541788 354100.0000 678800.0000
Date of Application	29 January 2016	Application Received	01 February 2016
Summary of proposed works	Installation of audio visual display equipment in Hangar 4		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted.

2. Background

East Fortune was commissioned as a Royal Naval Air Service station on 23 August 1916, although construction work had started and aircraft had been on site since 1915. It was a base for both airships and aircraft during the First World War, becoming a base for the newly established Royal Air Force in 1918. The airfield continued for a few years in military and civilian use, acting as the base for the first transatlantic crossing by an airship; the R34 in 1919. By 1922, the airship sheds were dismantled and the air station buildings were sold and converted into a tuberculosis hospital.

Following the outbreak of war in 1939, the site was requisitioned by the Air Ministry in 1940 to act as a training facility and satellite field for RAF Drem nearby. The control tower, hangars and buildings on the south side of the airfield date from this period. The RAF vacated the site in 1946, and the buildings were used for storage by a number of government departments, with a brief return to active use as an airfield in 1961 while Edinburgh Airport underwent significant redevelopment. In 1975, the National Museum of Flight opened on the site, occupying the World War II building complex. The runways are still in use for microlight flying and motorbike racing.

The cultural significance of the monument relates to its status as a rare surviving example of a well-preserved 20th century military airfield. Its long and varied history and the good preservation of the buildings and runways add to its significance.

Since being taken over by the National Museum of Flight, the buildings at East Fortune have been subject to a large number of interventions, many in the 1980s before the scheduling designation was in place. Hangar 4 has seen extensive refitting of its external cladding and was also partially dismantled and reassembled to allow for the installation of one of the Museum's key exhibits, the Aerospatiale/BAC Concorde. The roof space of Hangar 4 currently contains a heating system, directional fans and lighting fittings all supported on the original superstructure of the hangar.

Mr Alan McIntosh of National Museums Scotland undertook pre-application consultations with Historic Environment Scotland at a site meeting on 29 January 2016. I advised him that scheduled monument consent would be required for the installation of projectors, screens and other suspended items.

3. Proposals

Consented Works:

The works comprise the installation of a projector, speakers, projection screen, lighting, and associated power cabling as part of a scheme to enhance the display facilities in Hangar 4 at the National Museum of Flight.

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:

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: Part 1 2 Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

(1) If any person executes or causes or permits to be executed any works to which this section applies he shall be guilty of an offence unless the works are authorised under this Part of the Act.

(2) This section applies to any of the following works, that is to say –

(a) any works resulting in the demolition or destruction of or any damage to a scheduled monument;

- (b) any works for the purpose of removing or repairing a scheduled monument or any part of it or of making any alterations or additions thereto;
- (c) any flooding or tipping operations on land in, on or under which there is a scheduled monument.

Scottish Historic Environment Policy

3.4. Scheduled monument consent is required for any works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to the monument or to carry out any flooding or tipping on the monument. It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

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 works will involve the attachment of the following display elements to the structure of Hangar 4 -

- Projector and speaker array
- Projection screen
- Lighting
- Power cabling

These works would represent alterations and additions to the monument under section 2 (2) (b) of the Act, and therefore require scheduled monument consent.

The display elements will be attached to the hangar structure using a variety of non-invasive methods appropriate to the nature of each item. The screen will be suspended on cables with padding/coating at points of contact with the hangar frame, the power cabling will be secured using clips and/or ties, and the projector

and speakers will be fixed to a pole and mounting bracket which will be attached to the hangar frame using mounting clamps.

The exact location and number of attachments for those items which require consent will be determined on site at the time of installation to ensure suitable security and load balance across the structure.

In an e-mail of 4 February 2016, Mr McIntosh (the applicant for National Museums Scotland) also describes a number of free standing display screens which will stand on the floor adjacent to the hangar walls. These will be secured to the hangar frame by light plastic ties. I do not consider this level of intervention to constitute works, alterations or additions to the monument and consequently do not consider these screens to require consent.

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

None

d) Conclusion

I am content that the proposed works will not have an adverse impact on the fabric of the monument. The non-invasive nature of the fixings should ensure that there is no damage to the hangar frame and the contribution of expert advice from display specialists and structural engineers should ensure that the works will not place an undue structural load on the frame or any other elements of the hangar structure. This procedure has been used in the past for similar works in Hangar 4 and across the Museum site with no ill effects. I am therefore content that the works are consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, in accordance with SHEP 3.16.

The proposals have been developed using specialist input and are reversible. I, therefore, consider the proposals to comply with SHEP 3.20.

The proposed works represent a continuation of a process which has been ongoing at this monument for at least two decades with no recorded adverse impact on the fabric of the monument.

6. Recommended decision

I recommend consent is **granted without 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

None

8. Approval

Officer	Deirdre Cameron	Date	11/02/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	11/02/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Description of the proposed lights
- Graphics Plan
- NMoF H4 Light Scheme
- NMoF H4 Scope of Works & AV site
- WRD Advice note and proposed Anchor points
- Email of 4 February 2016 from Alan McIntosh to Deirdre Cameron clarifying details of fixings.