

Case information

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| Reference/Case ID | 201506647 | | |
| Scheduled Monument | Bothwell Castle, Uddingston | | |
| Index no | M90038 | Grid Ref | 268800 659350 |
| Date of Application | 21 January 2016 | Application Received | 21 January 2016 |
| Summary of proposed works | Alterations to lighting in North and Mid Cellars | | |

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted.

2. Background

Bothwell Castle is an impressive fortification with origins in the 13th century and featured prominently in the 14th century Wars of Independence. By 1700 it had been supplanted by a mansion built nearby. The Castle is a Property in Care and attracts around 10,000 visitors annually.

The monument is of national importance because it is one of the outstanding castles of medieval Scotland. It survives as an impressive ruin with notable elements such as the donjon, which is without parallel in Scotland. The Castle has strong associations with important historic events and figures, which add to its significance. The monument also has the potential to provide information on the development of Scottish castles and the lives of its medieval residents.

The North and Mid Cellars are located below the Great Hall. Currently, the North Cellar is lit by a defective spotlight track nearing the end of its functioning life. It is supplied by surface run wiring, sheathed in white plastic and with a white plastic switch. The existing cable and fittings are conspicuous and fixed directly to stone.

Currently, the Mid Cellar contains temporary lighting comprising improvised timber boxes on the floor that house fittings to provide uplighting. The fittings are supplied by a flex on the floor fed from a transformer, which emits a 'hum'.

Both the North and Mid Cellar are accessed by external steps, which lead through doors with low clearance. Internal steps lead down to the cellar floors. Surfaces on the steps are uneven and a transition from a brighter exterior to a darker interior may temporarily decrease visual acuity. These factors increase the risk of trips and falls and a visitor injury has occurred at the Mid Cellar entrance.

3. Proposals

There are three elements to the proposed works:

- to remove the existing track and spotlights at the North Cellar. It is also proposed to remove the existing light switch and cable because they are visually conspicuous and fixed directly to stone.
- to remove the temporary lighting installed on the Mid Cellar floor and replace it with a new ceiling track and spotlight. This would require new supply wiring and a switch.
- to install new wall lights at low level by the internal steps into both cellars. These are intended to provide directional lighting onto the steps and so improve their illumination. The lights will require new supply wiring.

Existing cables would be tested and reused where practical. The district architect would agree the location of all new cable routes with Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate and the electrical contractor. New wiring would be in surface cable runs ragged into suitably wide mortar joints; cables would not be fixed into stone. Existing cable routes between the Mid and North Cellars that run through holes would be reused.

Electrical accessories (track suspension wires, wall lights and light switches) would be affixed into mortar joints not stones.

Existing electrical accessories and fixings made redundant by these works would be removed (being drilled out where corrosion prevents easy removal). Resulting holes would be made good with lime mortar.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application has been considered 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

3.4. 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.

3.17. 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 proposals would involve removing obsolete and temporary lighting in two cellars. The lighting facilitates public access into this part of the monument. The new lighting design should reduce how conspicuous the lighting is by removing timber boxes, transformer and flexes on the floor of the Mid Cellar and by raggling cable runs into mortar joints in both cellars.

The work should be more sympathetic to conserving the fabric of the monument as fixings into stone would be replaced by fixings into mortar.

Low level lighting is proposed near ground level to provide illumination of the stairs for visitors. This would be a new installation aimed at reducing the risk of trips and falls.

The proposed like-for-like replacement of the overhead track in the North Cellar and the replacement of temporary lighting on the floor of the Mid Cellar are assessed as reducing the visual (and to a lesser extent audible) intrusion of the modern electrical supply. Therefore, they should enhance appreciation of the monument's cultural significance. Fixings will be made into mortar rather than stone, which is currently the case, and hence should be an improvement with regard to the long term preservation of the monument.

The proposed new wall lights at the entrance to both cellars would be a new installation that would introduce an additional element of modern lighting to the monument. This change has been fully and explicitly justified on the grounds of protecting the Health and Safety of people entering the cellars. The proposed new lights have been sensitively designed so that the visual intrusion of related infrastructure should be minimal.

The proposed works appear to have been carefully considered and properly planned. Overall, they are likely to improve an appreciation of the cultural significance of the monument by reducing the visual intrusion of modern lighting installations. They would enhance the long term protection of the monument.

Where new (rather than replacement) lighting is proposed it has been justified on the grounds of Health and Safety. It has been sensitively designed so that it is not likely to have a material effect on the cultural significance of the monument.

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

The application site does not lie in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area. National Biodiversity Network GIS data sets indicate no evidence for Protected Species in the relevant 100m grid squares and an inspection by the HES Natural Environment Advisor has confirmed the cellars are not used by bats.

d) Conclusion

The proposals concern works to enhance lighting at the North and Mid Cellar, Bothwell Castle. There would be some beneficial effects on the cultural significance of the monument as the replacement lighting would be less intrusive than the existing, and would be more appropriate for the presentation of the monument (SHEP 3.14 & 3.18). Where new lighting at the entrances is proposed it has been fully justified (SHEP 3.17). The proposal appears to be carefully considered and planned (SHEP 3.20). Ultimately, however, any impacts would be minimal and not conflict with the primary policy of minimal intervention.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I recommend consent is **granted**.

8. Approval

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| Officer | Simon Stronach | Date | 18/2/2016 |
| Approved by | John Raven | Date | 18/2/2016 |

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Bothwell Castle, Cellars below Great Hall Range; Proposed lighting improvements within North and Mid Cellar (Supporting Information, Location Plan & Proposal Drawing)