

Re: Edinburgh Castle Redcoat Café Refurbishment – Pizza Oven Extract
Supplemental Information re: Considerations and Approach

Further to previous applications submitted in December 2015 with regards to the proposed new pizza oven with Redcoat Café;

While the original intention was to use existing extract routes in order to eliminate the need to make any impact on existing structures, we have since undertaken detailed review of proposals in collaboration with HES personnel and site teams, Harley Hadow (engineers), Al-Mech (M&E engineers) and Dimension Shopfitters (main project contractors), who have taken into full consideration the requirements of the oven and existing site conditions/equipment.

The clear recommendation and professional advice is that the safest and most straightforward route for venting the proposed new pizza oven is to create a new, separate extract route to service the oven exclusively, eliminating any impact or increased load on existing systems and minimising the need for bends in the ductwork.

The result of these investigations is that we will need to revise our proposals to introduce a new external termination in the roof of the Redcoat Café to accommodate this new extract.

In our revised proposals, we have taken the following into consideration, the sensitivity around which we are acutely aware of and have aimed to address proactively:

- Safety
- Disruption to Historical Fabric – Avoidance or minimal impact
- Setting – visual impact and any alterations to views

Safety

The project team recommend that the safest route in light of all considerations is a straight projection through the Redcoat Café roof, avoiding any bends in the extract ductwork and taking the shortest route through to external access.

A separate extract will service the pizza oven only, meaning no change to existing systems already in place for other equipment in operation within the café.

Please see drawings supplied for details as to route and proposed location.

Heritage Fabric - Avoidance or minimal impact

Based on investigations and discussions on site, we have proposed minimal impact approach and are avoiding tampering with historical fabric. The ductwork will avoid any historical beams or trusses in its route through the ceiling, rafters and roof structure.

See detailed drawings for proposed location for extract route.

Setting - visual impact and any alterations to views

A key aim of the proposals has been to absolutely minimise any visual disruption to the existing views/scene.

As a point of reference, the proposed exposed duct will be far smaller than the existing plant chimney which extends from the roof and it will be set into one of the valleys of the roofline, only extending 600mm from the roofline (in line with or under the ridgeline) and with a diameter of approx 300mm. This duct can be coloured to match either existing duct pipework for consistency, or can be RAL matched to blend in with the roof slates.

We have included mock-up photographs within our application pack, demonstrating what we propose to put in place and its minimal visual impact on the setting.

Please see detailed drawings and photo mock-ups for reference.

Summary

While in an ideal scenario we would have been able to avoid the requirement for a new external termination for the pizza oven, all things considered a new separate extract looks to be the safest and cleanest approach.

While this means there will need to be a new piece of ductwork projecting from the roofline of the Café, this will be minimally visible and its installation will not impact on the historical fabric of the building.

Within the overall context of the catering offer at Edinburgh Castle, the introduction of a pizza oven will offer visitors a fantastic catering experience, therefore we hope that the approach proposed will be acceptable and, if consent is granted, we will undertake the work with utmost sensitivity to site and with the least intrusive approach possible.