

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201507494		
Scheduled Monument	Huntly Castle		
Index no	M90165	Grid Ref	NJ532407 353200.0000 840700.0000
Date of Application	25 February 2016	Application Received	29 February 2016
Summary of proposed works	Alteration of existing WWTP within scheduled area and construction of a new WWTP on adjacent riverbank site out with the scheduled area.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the alteration of existing waste water treatment plant (WWTP) within scheduled area and construction of a new WWTP on adjacent riverbank site out with the scheduled area, be granted without conditions.

2. Background

Huntly Castle is a highly complex multi-period castle with at least three separate phases of castle construction. The castle is located at an important river junction and strategic route way in to Morayshire. The first castle on the site, the Peel of Strathbogie, was constructed by Duncan the earl of Fife in the 12th C as a motte-and-bailey earth and timber castle. This was replaced by a stone castle in the 15th C, though much of what is visible today relates to later phases of construction and refurbishment carried out in the 16th and early 17th century. Today the site is dominated by the red sandstone, magnificent southern façade of the later castle.

The area where the works are proposed is to the north of the castle, away from any of the upstanding remains of existing structures, in an area that has seen disturbance in the past, primarily from the construction of the existing WWTP.

The castle is an important and much visited attraction in the area, the existing WWTP is no longer sufficient to cope with increased visitor numbers and it is proposed that a new WWTP would better accommodate the sites visitors. Upgrading the WWTP would improve the public amenities on site.

The pre-applications discussions for the works began in 2014 and have comprised site discussions between Heritage Management and Conservation Group on several occasions and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

Consented works: Alteration of existing Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The proposals include:

- Alteration of existing WWTP within the scheduled area into a change of direction inspection chamber.
- This would include the routing of power and water from the toilet cabin along existing pipelines to new WWTP.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be viewed 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.
- Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

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.

3.16. 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 represent alterations and additions to a scheduled monument and as such, scheduled monument consent is required.

- Alteration of existing WWTP within the scheduled area into a change of direction inspection chamber.
- This would include the routing of power and water from the toilet cabin along existing pipelines to new WWTP.

The area of the monument affected will utilise existing disturbed ground and therefore has a low potential for significant archaeological remains to be affected. The works involve reopening the service trench associated with pre-existing sewage pipeline. This trench will allow the laying of a new pipe between the toilet block and the WWTP. Trenching in this area has a lower potential to disturb archaeological deposits and would not adversely affect the cultural significance of the monument.

The application included a written scheme of investigation, which details the proposed mitigation. This would include a watching brief with archaeological monitoring of the works, the cleaning and recording of all sections and archiving of all material and finds. The archaeological works are to be undertaken by a commercial archaeological contractor and the mitigation strategy outlined in the WSI is in accordance with industry standards. This accords with section 3.22 of SHEP.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places likely.

d) Conclusion

This intervention should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAAA 1979 and under section 3.4 of SHEP. The works are in the form of an intrusive excavation to the monument.

The excavation works is the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument, and thus compliant with SHEP 3.16.

The application contains sufficiently detailed information regarding the specification and methods to be used to be considered to be consistent with 3.20 and 3.22.

The application contains sufficiently detailed methodologies and justification that a consent may be granted without the requirement for conditions.

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 without conditions**.

7. Conditions

None.

8. Approval

Officer	James Bruhn	Date	21/04/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	22/04/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Huntly Castle Water Treatment Works, Written Scheme of Investigation. (WSI)
- Associated plans highlighting the WWTP and trench location.