

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201600821		
Scheduled Monument	Turnberry Castle		
Index no	M6183	Grid Ref	NS196072 219600.0000 607200.0000
Date of Application	10 May 2016	Application Received	10 May 2016
Summary of proposed works	Formation of hard landscaping and steps to the West Terrace of the Lighthouse		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for changes to the landscaping and terracing within the lighthouse enclosure, the installation of paving and the creation of steps linking both levels of terracing be granted with conditions

2. Background

Turnberry Castle consists of the remains of a large masonry castle, possibly on the site of a twelfth-century or earlier structure, occupying a promontory, with wider views over the nearby coastline and adjacent seaways. The castle's association with the Bruce family, and particularly the widely held assumption that it was Robert the Bruce's birthplace and/or childhood home, substantially raises its cultural significance. The centre of the castle was largely truncated by the erection of the B Listed lighthouse and associated structures. These are contained within a formal enclosure. The raised ground immediately surrounding the lighthouse drops to the west to create a flat open area on the seaward side, this gives the impression of terracing.

The lighthouse is currently under renovation and it is intended to accommodate luxury accommodation and activities relating to the adjacent golf course there. It is also intended to use the lighthouse enclosure and an outdoor entertainment and events area.

Pre-application discussions have emphasised that whilst the inside of the lighthouse enclosure makes little contribution to the ability to appreciate and understand the

layout and character of the castle, and thus makes little contribute its wider cultural significance, any impacts on underlying deposits associated with the castle should be avoided. Scheduled Monument Consent was previously granted for archaeological investigations to assess the depth and nature of any surviving deposits. The report indicates that the excavators did not identify the presence of medieval deposits previous recorded in this area. However, it does indicate that there is likely to be sufficient modern overburden to accommodate the proposed works and thus limit any impacts.

3. Proposals

- Changes to the landscaping and terracing within the lighthouse enclosure.
- Installation of paving throughout the lighthouse enclosure.
- Creation of steps linking both levels of terracing.

The proposals would result in a change to the current ground levels and terracing. The upper terrace would be extended through the addition of hardcore, laid over a geotextile membrane. This would see a reduction in the size of the lower terrace. Limited reduction of ground levels in the lower terrace is also proposed.

The upper and lower terraces, but not the intervening slope, would be paved over. Steps would be created, linking the terracing, and would include a handrail for safety reasons. The paving slabs and steps would sit on a bed of cement and hardcore, underlain by geotextile.

All ground breaking works would be archaeologically monitored to ensure any underlying deposits associated with the castle were preserved and that any other finds were retrieved and deposits were recorded. A Written Scheme of Investigation, outlining the excavation and reporting methodology, has been provided by Northlight Heritage Ltd, a well-established and competent commercial archaeological consultancy, who will oversee the works.

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:

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
- b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;
- c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects (see Note 3.10); and,

- i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

b) Assessment

The investigative works undertaken by the applicant to inform these proposals confirm that the terracing is entirely modern, relating to the lighthouse and its enclosure. The changes to the landform and hard landscaping will not therefore affect the ability to understand and appreciate the castle. Their containment within the enclosure also means that any impact on the monument's character will be minimal.

The archaeological monitoring should prevent any impacts on unforeseen underlying deposits. However, the wording of the WSI is slightly ambiguous, as to which deposits should remain untouched. Consequently, a condition has been added to clarify where works should stop. The WSI does not contain a reporting timetable, so this also has been added as a suspensive condition.

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

The monument sits within a SSSI. SNH have indicated that they have no concerns about the proposed works.

d) Conclusion

The works are unlikely to have an impact upon the character of the monument, or related archaeological material. They would, therefore, only have a very limited, if any, impact upon the castle's cultural significance, and the proposals would, consequently, not conflict with SHEP para 3.16.

If works are conducted in accordance with the WSI any unforeseen impacts should be prevented. The archaeological monitoring would be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeology who have provided a largely competent, well thought through methodology, thereby complying with SHEP paras 3.20 and 3.22. However, the wording of the WSI is slightly ambiguous, as to which deposits should remain untouched. Consequently, a condition has been added to clarify where works should stop. The WSI does not contain a date for report delivery, so this also has been added as a condition.

6. Recommended decision

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.

I recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. All work shall be confined to modern ground levelling deposits. There shall be no disturbance of any in situ subsurface archaeological deposits associated with the castle, its construction, use or occupation.

Reason: to minimise impacts on subsurface structures and/or deposits associated with the castle.

2. Within three weeks of the completion of works on site, two copies of the Data Structure Report shall be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland.

Reason: to maintain an accurate record of works on the monument.

8. Approval

Officer	John Raven	Date	19/05/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	20/05/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- 1) Written Scheme of Investigation
- 2) Layout Plan and Section
- 3) Archaeological Summary Report