



Case information

Reference/Case ID	201600271		
Scheduled Monument	Crookston Castle		
Index no	M90085	Grid Ref	NS525627 252500.0000 662700.0000
Date of Application	14 April 2016	Application Received	25 April 2016
Summary of proposed works	Installation of replacement interpretation signage		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the installation of replacement interpretation signage.

2. Background

First scheduled in 1920, the monument was a strategic stronghold and manorial residence through its long history. It comprises a medieval castle which is visible as an upstanding 15th century stone tower. This is enclosed by the earthworks of the first castle which dates to the late 12th century, along with an area surrounding the earthworks. The castle occupies the western part of a hilltop, dominating the confluence of the Levern Water and the White Cart at between 20-30m OD.

As well as being scheduled, the monument is a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers.

The board forms part of a wider scheme of interpretation replacement at Historic Environment Scotland properties by HES' Interpretation Unit to replace outdated and faded signage, and address gaps in on-site interpretation.

3. Proposals

The proposed works comprise the following:

- the moving of an existing plinth (CRK01) and its relocation;
- the installation of a series of wall-mounted and rail-mounted panels within the tower house (CRK03-CRK07c) which involves either fixing them into mortar joints or by re-using existing backing boards; and
- the installation of a new cairn (CRK02) which involves excavation for a 300mm foundation

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:

Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016)

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 (see Note 3.2). A consent under section 42 of the 1979 Act is also required to use a metal detector within a scheduled monument (see Note 3.3). 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. (Annex 1 sets out guidance as to how cultural significance and national importance should be determined.)

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 proposed signage would have a minimal impact on the historic fabric and character of the monument.

(CRK01)

The moving of an existing plinth (CRK01) to a new location involves the lifting of the original plinth. As it is presently unclear what potential impact this might have on any archaeology, the removal of the plinth should be monitored by an archaeologist – the methodology of which will be agreed in advance in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). This will ensure that any potential impacts can be appropriately mitigated.

This plinth will not require a foundation in its new location and this would be in an area of what is considered by an archaeological assessment included with the

application to be modern material comprising built up ground near to the path. The potential impact from this on any archaeological remains is considered by the applicant to be unlikely. However, in order to be satisfied that any potential impacts can be mitigated, the removal of the plinth should be monitored by an archaeologist – the methodology of which will be agreed in advance in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

(CRK03-CRK07c)

The series of wall-mounted and rail-mounted panels within the tower house (CRK03-CRK07c) will either be fixed into mortar joints, or will re-use existing backing boards, thereby minimising the impact on historic masonry. Their installation will enhance the visitor experience and will therefore have a positive benefit.

(CRK02)

The installation of a new cairn (CRK02) involves a potential archaeological impact as it will require excavation for the 300mm foundation. Archaeological excavations in the near vicinity revealed rubble and mortar deposits up to a depth of 1.3m below the topsoil. This included 19th century artefacts, suggesting more recent deposition and landscaping. In order to mitigate these potential impacts, the archaeological works will be monitored by an archaeologist. The assessment accompanying the application discusses the need to ensure that no significant archaeological deposits are affected by these works. The methodology will include provision for protecting any *in situ* archaeology, and discussing potential changes with Historic Environment Scotland to their methodology to avoid any impacts. This will be outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be agreed in advance by Historic Environment Scotland.

The potential visual impact from the proposals has been assessed and mitigated through careful siting and design. For example, CRK02 is set back from the building which reduces its impact on views towards the castle, while CRK06 (a rail-mounted panel) is slim and recessive in colour.

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

There will not be any significant impacts on Protected Species and Places.

The monument is a Property in the Care which is operated by Historic Environment Scotland as a visitor attraction.

d) Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed works do not conflict with the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.16: works that are the minimum level of intervention consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument.

However, as a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is not included with the application, a suspensive condition has been recommended. Providing Historic

Environment Scotland is provided with this before any works commence, we are satisfied that the potential archaeological impacts can be mitigated.

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 therefore recommend that **consent is granted, subject to the condition** detailed below.

7. Conditions

1. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area [as indicated on the plan supplied with the application] until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved, in writing, by Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate. This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved development.

Reason: to ensure that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

8. Approval

Officer	Nicola Hall	Date	15/06/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	17/06/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Drawings (A3) Crookston Castle New Interpretation Installation Location Plan and Details

Signage Schedule 2015-16 (Prepared by HES Interpretation Team)

Archaeological Assessment (Prepared by HES CNR Team dated 15/07/16)