



## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201601918		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Elgin Cathedral		
<b>Index no</b>	M90142	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NJ222630 322200.0000 863000.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	11 July 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	11 July 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Removal of RLF signs and replacement with new corporate signage.		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for the removal and replacement of old RLF signs, with new corporate signage, be granted.

### 2. Background

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The monument consists of the surviving portions of Elgin Cathedral, its ancillary buildings, graveyard, boundary wall and gates

The remains consist of a nave with double aisles and N and S porches; twin western towers having a superb portal and window between them; transepts above which rose a great central tower (which collapsed in 1711); a choir with aisles and presbytery; and a detached octagonal chapter-house, rebuilt in the 15th century.

In the surviving ruins and in the detached fragments assembled on the site there is a wealth of moulded work, heraldic decoration, and figure sculpture; preserved in the nave is a standing cross-slab with Pictish symbols, which formerly stood in St Giles's kirkyard in Elgin.

The replacement of signage is part of the wider Tower Stone Display Project at Elgin Cathedral. HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions

### 3. Proposals

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Consented works – The removal of RLF signs and replacement with new corporate signage.

The proposals comprise:

- The removal of old signs and fixings
- The refit of replacement signs into existing holes
- Any new holes to be made into mortar joints
- New signage has been designed using recessive colour schemes from the HES Signage Design manual

#### **4. Representations received**

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No third party representations were received.

#### **5. Report**

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##### **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.

##### Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016 (the policy statement)

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. A monument is included 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 this policy statement, which 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. (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 works involve the removal and replacement of old RLF signage with new, corporate signage.

The physical impact of the proposed works is minimal as existing holes for signage will be re-used where possible and where new holes are required screws will be fixed into the mortar joints. As such, the works can be considered as the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument, and are thus compliant with paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement.

The potential visual impact from the proposals has been assessed and mitigated through sensitive planning, methodology and careful siting and design. The works proposed are therefore compliant with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

**d) Conclusion**

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement

The application, comprising removal and replacement of old RLN signage with new corporate signage is the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in this scheduled monument. The works are being undertaken to elements of the monument in such a way that their impact on the cultural significance of the monument is minor, and as such the application is compliant with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 which demonstrates/sets out that the works are carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned. Consequently no further conditions are required.

**6. Recommended decision**

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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

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None.

## 8. Approval

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Hazel Johnson</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>02/09/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>George Findlater</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>02/09/2016</b>

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location photos in illustrative document
- Elgin Cathedral Signage Schedule