

x ☐ Other plans and drawings as are necessary to describe the works

Please tick here if you intend to submit any supporting documents by post ☐

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

It is important that you read the accompanying guidance notes as incorrect completion will delay the processing of your application. You can complete and submit this form by email (scheduledmonumentconsent@hes.scot) or by post to Heritage Management Business Support, Historic Environment Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH.

1 Applicant name and address

Title	Mr	First Name	Craig	Surname	Gardner
Company / Organisation	Stirling Council Roads & Land Services				
Building No / Name	Endrick House				
Street	Kerse Road				
Town / City	Stirling				
County / Region					
Postcode	FK7 7SG				

2 Monument to which application applies

Index no	SM90288 SM90288	Name	Stirling Royal Gardens including Kings Knot and Stirling Castle
Local Authority	Stirling Council	Grid Ref	NS 789938
Description of location of land	The land is located in the centre of Stirling north east of the Albert Halls and Smith Museum and Dumbarton Road/Albert Place on the A811.		

3 Pre-application discussions

Have you undertaken pre-application discussions with Historic Environment Scotland? (If yes, please give details below)	Y Yes N ☐
Correspondence and telephone call with Oliver Lewis and George Findlater. Emailed all maps and associated documents, methodology regarding proposed upgrade of the lower Back Walk path from Clarendon Road through Butt Well out to Balangeich Road.	

4 Summary of proposed works (max 20 words)

Upgrade existing path to high quality surface using mainly a "no dig" technique. Widening required in places to support an Active Travel link in partnership with Sustrans.

5 Description of proposed works

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Methodology (in particular relating to points f to C, from C to tree no 232 and onwards to point A falling adjacent to and/or within SAM) - should conform where reasonably practicable to **BS5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction**. Recommendations are to employ a “no dig” technique along the entire section of path (points i to A and Q-Q1) particularly where the path falls within the Root Protection Area (RPA) of existing trees as shown on attached Maps00. Materials to be used within the RPAs should be a porous surface to allow unimpeded access for moisture and gaseous exchange laid from 35mm to 50mm depth on top of a 70mm depth 3D cellular confinement system eg Infracore, filled with type 3 or preferably 4-20mm no fines stone. This acts as the sub-base and prevents against the compaction of air spaces within the soil around (fine) tree roots arising from anticipated increase in above ground pressure from foot/cycle and cleansing vehicle traffic. (The application of the Infracore or similar material assists with a “no dig” technique effectively allowing path to be built on top of existing path surfacing).

Some treatment of vegetation will be required including scraping to hard surface where it has encroached onto original path and/or chemical treatment, strimming. It is also desirable to “drill” holes in the areas where the existing path surface is still impermeable around the RPAs to improve aeration and drainage (eg tree no 727). This aeration will be carried out using a 25mm pickhead to 40mm depth at 1.5m centres.

Machinery used for installation of path is likely to be a 1.5tonne paving machine and 1.5tonne excavator for scraping the surface of existing path where required to provide level surface on which to lay new material. Areas inaccessible by machine will be barrowed in and hand laid ie section from tree no 727 (Photo 6) to Butt Well Spring (Photo 8).

Some digging may be required where the path requires widening over and above the original path width to facilitate an “Active Travel” route where a minimum of 2.5m width should be achieved where practicable in line with Sustrans funding criteria. (Please refer to **Path Survey Sheets 1 to 11**). This should be no more than 100-150mm depth and would relate to the eastern boundary of the path section labelled 1 to A.

Some remedial works will be required;

- A large boulder encroaches onto the path near tree no 317 which may require removal and replacement along with “shaving” of large stones protruding from path surface in this section (C-B) to achieve level surface.
- Butt Well “spring” bubbling up - cobble stones will require lifting and reset to keep water off the path (see summary below).
- B – b2 - refix loose boulder into wall (Photo 7d) and replace stone where path meets Butt Well drinking place. Also existing “Crop of flagstones” at b2 (Photo 7b,7c)- preferably cover with new surfacing.

Summary of proposed works;

Upgrade of 1130m of path broken into sections as follows (please refer to accompanying Maps 1 to 5 indicating Root Protection Areas of trees (RPAs) and 3D cellular confinement sections (eg Infracore), Ground Survey Sheets 1 to 10 showing current condition and recommended action and Photos 1 to 8);

Outwith Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM);

i-E 78.8 linear metres

EE-D 58.4 linear metres

D-C 125.8 linear metres

Path sections or spurs adjacent to and/or falling within SAM;

Spur Section C-f @ 24.5m x achievable width 3m (Photo 1). Some levelling required to reduce steep section which joins main path to the spur. Tree no 194 adjacent to start of SAM. Path works will not seek to encroach on SAM at this point. Infracore subbase, porous surface.

C-B @ 216m x achievable width 3m (Photos 2 to 6) This section is adjacent to the SAM until it reaches close proximity to tree no's 232 and 317 where the SAM appears to cross over and include the path up to and including the Butt Well at **b2 (Photo 7)**. This section relatively level with minor scraping and levelling required. Infracore subbase plus porous surface required along RPA sections for tree no's 232, 317 and 727.

B-b2 @ 46.4m x achievable width 3m (Photos 7a,7b,7c,7d). New surface to be hand laid directly onto existing surface up to the Butt Well crop of flagstones Photos 7b, 7c (HES to confirm if these can be covered over to tie in neatly with Butt Well "patio" stones), some resetting of stones required (Photo 7d).

Path sections taking into account comment and recommendations received from Tom Gaze Historic Environment Scotland Architect;

B-1 @ 101m x achievable width 1.5m includes Butt well spring. Scraping of section to achieve width, taking care around RPAs of tree nos 364, 365, 366. Infracore subbase with porous surface required along RPA sections for tree nos 364, 356,366. Re Tom Gaze comment – large edging stones following on from cobbled section will not be disturbed in proposed widening of path – this will be achieved to east of path. The path finish will be a "blacktop" or Flexipave surface and NOT hardcore. Stirling Council Roads service to confirm exact finish.

Butt Well Spring (Photo 8 and Ground survey sheet 5 and annotated sheets and photos ex Tom Gaze). The spring here has breached the cobbled section of the path route and will require remedial work to restore to the original watercourse ie open ditch. This cobbled section forms part of the protected SAM wall directly north east. Comments and recommendations received from Tom Gaze are also noted and addressed below.

Although it is not proposed to address repairs as part of the path upgrade until required works and methodology have been further investigated, a recommendation has been proposed as follows;

- Cobble setts prior to removal should be recorded ie numbered and photographed and replaced in same position (Tom Gaze). Cobble setts removed should be cleaned down and set aside for re-use. Dig out spoil from area to expose source of spring and install 600mm plastic drainage chamber over spring and concrete into place. Core hole on side of chamber and install 150mm diameter outlet pipe running to open ditch. Dress area out with hard core and cap top of drainage chamber. Re-install cobble setts as advised above and grout using appropriate material between joints. **HES please advise if recommendation acceptable in principle?**

1-A @ 270.4m x achievable width 3m (Photos 11, 12, 13 and Ground survey sheet 6 and annotated sheets and photos ex Tom Gaze)

Eastern boundary to path will require scraping of vegetation to achieve width. Unknown at this stage if additional hardcore needs to be added to widen path – Stirling Council Roads service to confirm methodology proposed. Any debris scraped will not be moved off site and may be used to create a

small “bund” alongside the path. The drainage issues commented on by Tom Gaze: “any available existing/established drains or weepholes” will be retained and run unimpeded where possible. The collection of surface rainwater within proximity to tree nos 728 and 729 should be alleviated by use of Infracore or similar to raise path above water table or by creation of appropriate camber to eastern path boundary although the presence of a bench may make a “catch” drain difficult – **Stirling Council Roads service to confirm course of action and proposed methodology.**

Walls at entrance point A – these walls will be protected from damage by machinery and to this end assurances will be given by Stirling Roads service by way of a job specification or similar to operatives as part of their working practice procedures – Stirling Council Roads service to confirm.

1-2 @ 47m x 1m (Ground survey sheet 7 and annotated sheets and photos ex Tom Gaze) Path finish will be aggregate. Application of will be so as to avoid obscuring lower course of boundary wall unless this has subsequently being worn below original path levels. Covering of protruding stones to reduce the trip hazard would attempt to be achieved without raising path level to unacceptable safe height relative to boundary wall and this may require further discussion – **Stirling Council Roads service to propose acceptable methodology.**

The “drainage gully” will be retained and any remedial works to this will be carried out similar to that of the Butt Well spring cobbles. **Stirling Council Roads service to propose acceptable methodology.**

6	List of plans, drawings and other documents accompanying application (continue on separate sheet if necessary)			
No	Description	Reference	Document emailed	Document posted
1.	Maps showing overview of path, path sections in more details, extent of SAM, Root Protection areas (RPAs) and sections requiring Infracore subbase and porous surface	Maps 1 to 5	x	☐
2.	Ground Survey Sheets showing current condition of path and recommended action	Path Survey Sheets 1 to 11	x	☐
3.	Photographs illustrating specific features along path	Photos 1 to 8	x	☐
4.	Comments received from Tom Gaze on annotated Ground survey sheets 5, 6 & 7 plus four illustrative photographs	Tom Gaze Comments	x	☐
5.	Bat Survey	Bat Survey Acorna Assoc.	x	☐
6.	Maps x 2 illustrating ownership titles	Title Maps 1 & 2	x	

Will the proposed works affect any of the following:

Yes

No

☐

X

Site of Special Scientific Interest

X

☐

Special Protection Areas

X

☐

Special Areas of Conservation

☐

x

European Protected Species

If Yes, please give details below

Stirling Royal Gardens including Kings Knot SM90288

Stirling Castle SM90288

Stirling Council designated Conservation Area

SNH designated Ancient semi natural woodland (Ancient Woodland Inventory)

n.b. Bat survey relating to earlier tree works included with application – current path installation will not impact on any trees likely to have bat habitat potential.

Great Crested Newt within 1km of site- Stirling Council Countryside Ranger awaiting feedback on investigations but thought highly unlikely this species will be affected by path installation.

A public consultation exercise was carried out in May 2016 as part of the requirements for Forestry Commission approval of the revised and updated Back Walk & Gowan Hill woodland management plan. The consultation identified the need for improvement to the popular lower Back Walk footpath in order to make the path more accessible for a wide range of users including locals and visitors and to encourage active travel and healthier lifestyles.

Six key City Development Framework (CDF) projects have been allocated funds totalling £2 million. The creation of a Stirling City Park is one of these and the Back Walk and Gowan Hill form an integral part of this particular project. As at May 2016, circa £100K of this funding was allocated for the upgrading of the main primary route of the Back Walk to a standard that is sufficiently wide enough, of a suitable surface material, potential for lighting, is safe, to encourage pedestrians, and cyclists to access the City Park to a point before the major development of the site if the bid becomes successful. The work must be completed by 2017 and this financial resource is to kick start the CDF programme to show a commitment to both Scottish and UK governments and the local communities of the Councils intent.

This work would greatly improve and make safer the existing shared pedestrian and cycle access along this route and we would hope, create a more desirable active travel link from the Back Walk site to surrounding neighbourhoods and communities.

The path upgrade has also received confirmation of provisional match funding from Sustrans to provide an active travel link from Stirling town centre for local and neighbouring communities and immediate primary schools (Allans Primary and Our Ladys RC Primary). The criteria is to achieve a minimum width of 2.5m and 3m where practicable. Sustrans accept there will be "pinch points" along the way but this is a great opportunity to provide a functional active travel link from the centre of Stirling through an ancient semi natural woodland and a significant historic site. **The methodology proposed is that of a "no dig" technique which seeks protect both natural and designated heritage of the site.**

9 Declaration

x ☐ I hereby apply for scheduled monument consent for the works described in this application and shown on the accompanying plans and drawings.

x ☐ I confirm that the information I have given on this form is true and accurate.

Name	Fiona Melville	Date	14.10.16
On behalf of	[REDACTED]		
Where an application is being dealt with by an agent to whom correspondence should be sent, state the:-			
Name of Agent	Fiona Melville	Tel No	[REDACTED]
Address	Templehall Cottage, Puddledub, Kirkcaldy Fife		
	Post Code	KY2 5XA	