

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Case Information

Reference/Case ID		300018674	
Scheduled Monument	Linlithgow Palace, Peel and Royal Park		
Index no	SM13099	Grid ref	NS 99400 77400
Date application validated		04 November 2016	
Summary of proposed works		Loch Wall Strengthening at Town Bay	

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the installation of a new, pre cast concrete edge at Linlithgow Loch be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises Linlithgow Palace and the core of the Royal Park, including Linlithgow Loch, the ground beneath St Michael's Church and the church burial ground. The palace was built between 1424 and 1624 and is the largest non-defensive royal residence in medieval Scotland. The monument includes the upstanding palace buildings, as well as earthworks and buried archaeological remains in the surrounding parkland that preserve evidence both for early occupation of the site and for activity contemporary with the palace.

Archaeological evaluation of The Peel, between Town Bay and the Bell Burn, has demonstrated that this area contains much archaeological evidence, including building remains and deep midden deposits. The level part of The Peel, to the ENE of the palace, was reclaimed from the loch in the 19th century, but contains artefacts deposited into the former loch. Earthworks and buried archaeological features surrounding the palace may include the remains of early defences erected by Edward I and later fortifications built by Cromwell.

Two of the islands in Linlithgow Loch have been identified as crannogs and are likely to preserve evidence for prehistoric use of the site.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment may survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling includes the ground beneath St Michael's Church, but specifically excludes all parts of the present church building extending down to the base of the floor slabs, all service ducts, and all fittings and fixtures within the church. The scheduling specifically excludes all active burial lairs, the above-ground elements of all burial monuments of 19th-century or later date, and the churchyard walls. All walls and fences along the boundaries of the scheduled

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

area are excluded from the scheduling to allow for their maintenance. The scheduling specifically excludes: the above-ground elements of all structures, fittings and street furniture built after 1950; the above-ground elements of the Lodge (custodian's house), the Park Rangers' Office building, the public conveniences 65m southeast of St Michael's Church, and all modern sheds and garages; the upper 300mm of all surfaced paths, roads and cobbling; and the above-ground elements of all boundary walls, fences, bridges, landing stages and piers to allow for their maintenance. The scheduling specifically excludes the top 600mm of ground east of the palace within the level area of The Peel that is bounded by four metalled paths (this area is defined by straight lines joining points NT 00295 77425, NT 00450 77410, NT 00380 77300 and NT 00265 77380)

The monument is of national importance as The Royal Park preserves evidence for over 2,000 years of human activity. The two crannogs within the loch are probably prehistoric in date and the loch shores have high potential for further prehistoric settlement remains. Finds of Roman pottery suggest the ground around the palace was an important focus in the Roman period. Parch-marks visible on aerial photographs west of the palace may indicate enclosure ditches of Roman origin, suggesting potential for further discoveries from this period that could shed light on the origins of the site as a high status centre.

It is the shores and walls of the loch at Town Bay that this application relates to. The application is for the installation of a new concrete edge to match that previously installed further up the bay. It follows a previous emergency works to repair a section of the loch's retaining wall in November 2016. The application has been submitted by HES' District Architect.

The application is accompanied by a location plan, photo and methodology.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

- Placing of a retaining wall base
- Retaining wall base to consist of concrete filled geotextile bags
- Construction of retaining wall
- Installation of new precast concrete edge coping

Consented works are:

- The placing of a 75mm layer of crushed rock onto the loch bed
- Retaining wall base to consist of concrete filled geotextile bags (grade C40/10), placed before fully set
- Retaining wall concrete to be suitable for placing below water level, with shutter comprising of 250 x 130 railway sleepers with HD polythene inner face

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

- Retaining wall to be tied to existing revetment with stainless steel ties, drilled and anchored at 1000mm centres.
- Installation of new precast concrete edge coping

Aims – The works are proposed as necessary due to the failure of the existing concrete edging comprising of stacked concrete bags, which has let water from the loch undermine the adjacent footpath causing subsistence. The resulting uneven footpath resulted in a visitor to the park tripping into the loch; earlier emergency works were undertaken as a result of this, at the behest of West Lothian Council.

The works will take place in 2017 and carried out by HES' Conservation Directorate.

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be considered with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

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

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 that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

3.15. Monuments are subject to decay and the threat of destruction, from natural and human causes. Conservation work is normally needed to prolong the life of a monument, but there is a risk that this can be so invasive that it irreversibly modifies the monument's

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

character and affects the special interest or features that made the monument important in the first place.

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.

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

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 proposed works involve the installation of a new concrete edge to the shore of Linlithgow Loch at Town Bay. This is intended to match works previously undertaken further along the bay under Class V consent.

The physical impact of the proposed works would have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument, consisting or repairs to the replacement of existing concrete edging. Further, the works will benefit the longer term preservation of the loch shore.

The works would not affect the cultural significance of the monument.

The work would involve undertaking remedial and conservation works to mitigate health and safety risks to the public and to maintain the structural integrity of the masonry.

The application has been accompanied by a detailed Project Design that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology.

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.

The works would be within in the SSSI and the applicant has contacted SNH regarding the works. Approval from SNH and SEPA was obtained for phase 1 and SHN and SPEA have confirmed that the phase 2 will have no impact.

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

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 proposed works, comprising the installation of a new pre cast concrete edge to a section of Linlithgow Loch, are the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in this scheduled monument and so are compliant with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works, comprising the installation of a concrete edge to section of Linlithgow Loch are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works have been proposed in order to ensure the long term preservation of the monument and so are justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 because it has demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

Consequently, no conditions are considered necessary.

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

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Hazel Johnson	Date	16 December 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	20 December 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Loch Retailing Wall: Loch Wall Strengthening Ref: EDS4.1.57/09B