



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018995		
Scheduled Monument	Stirling Castle		
Index no	SM90291	Grid ref	NS 78800 94100
Date application validated	10 January 2017		
Summary of proposed works	Geophysical (GPR) Survey		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for **Stirling Castle - Geophysical (GPR) Survey** be granted.

2. Background

The monument is Stirling Castle and its immediate environs. The castle is a strongly-fortified royal castle. Its defences define three main enclosures: the outer defences (on the main line of approach), the main enclosure (at the summit of the rock) and the nether bailey (to the N). The principal buildings for royal occupation form a square enclosed by the King's Old Building, the Great Hall, the Chapel Royal and the Palace. The rock has been fortified since at least the 12th century, and probably for long before that, in view of the defensive and strategic advantages of its location. The earliest surviving building is probably the N gate, built for Robert II in the 1370s. The outer defences (1708-14) incorporate part of an important early artillery bastion and flanking works, probably built for Mary of Guise c.1559. Before that the main frontispiece of the castle was James IV's Forework of c.1500, built along what may have been a natural rock fissure. James IV was also primarily responsible for the formation of the main royal enclave, the Upper Square, on the summit. His apartment, the King's Old Building of the 1490s, formed the W side of the square, facing which is his Great Hall. James IV also probably planned a new Chapel Royal on the N side of the square, but the existing building was constructed by James VI in 1594. The fourth side of the square is formed by the Palace, built by James V in the 1530s and 1540s. The defences of the Nether Bailey, on a lower terrace N of the main enclosure, are probably largely of the 16th and 17th centuries, and enclose 19th-century buildings including magazines. The castle was extensively adapted after the Union of 1603 as a garrison, with particularly significant



changes at the period of the 1689 Revolution and the wars with France c.1800. The esplanade was laid out in the early 19th century.

The scheduled area is defined by the base of the castle rock on the W, the W edge of Ballengeich Pass and Upper Castle Hill on the E, the S edge of Ballengeich Road on the N, and by the outer face of the boundary wall of the Esplanade in the S. It is irregular on plan.

It is the area of the Douglas Gardens and the Upper Square that this application relates to. The application is for undertaking a geophysical survey using ground penetrating radar equipment.

It has been submitted by Rose Geophysical Consultants LLP.

The application is accompanied by a survey methodology and a survey location plan. A separate written confirmation of the owner's permission has been received via email.

3. Proposals

- Setting out survey baselines and recording grid.
- Conducting GPR survey across defined areas of the monument.

Consented works – **Stirling Castle - Geophysical (GPR) Survey**. The work involves establishing a survey control grid in order to conduct an over-ground, non-invasive and systematic GPR survey.

Aims – to improve archaeological knowledge about the character and development of the monument, as part of a wider programme of archaeological evaluation and in conjunction with a TV production.

Timetable – 30 and 31 January 2017.

Personnel – Rose Geophysics LLP.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

Section 42 Consent: Report on Handling



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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors.

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.

3.16. 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.

b) Assessment

The survey would not alter the fabric of the monument or change it in any other way. The results may contribute positively to our understanding of the monument and our appreciation of its value. The methodology for the survey and its reporting is appropriate.

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 work would not have any adverse impact on the monument. It may enhance our understanding of its value.

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	Andrew Fulton	Date	18 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	19 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Survey methodology
- Survey location plan