



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018890		
Scheduled Monument	Doune Castle		
Index no	SM12765	Grid ref	NN 72800 1000
Date application validated	15 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Alterations to vault beneath great hall to form a shop		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop be granted without conditions.

2. Background

The historic environment asset and its cultural significance

The monument comprises Doune Castle, its defences and earthworks. It is situated south-east of Doune village, around 20m above sea level, at the neck of a promontory between the River Teith on the west and Ardoch Burn on the east. Built probably on the site of an earlier castle, the present Doune Castle was built or re-modelled for Robert Duke of Albany between 1380 and 1400. It became the main castle of the earldom of Menteith until the title was annexed to the Crown in 1424. At this time the castle became a royal household and, in the following centuries, it was frequently used as a dower house to the queens of Scotland and as a hunting lodge. Later in its life Doune Castle acted as a state prison and was used to house prisoners during the 1745 Jacobite uprising.

The high-walled pentagonal courtyard castle of Doune sits on raised ground within a series of ditches that may be associated with an earlier defensive structure. The main approach is from the north, and is dominated by a five-storey gatehouse tower, over a defended entry. It contained the principal accommodation for the Duke and Duchess of Albany, including the Lord's Hall, the Upper Hall and oratory or chapel. Adjacent to the gatehouse and filling the remainder of the N range is the great hall, raised over a series of undercrofts. In the W wall are the postern, protected by a possible wallhead



machicolation (a hole for dropping various missiles on the enemy), and the kitchen tower. The latter is offset from the plan of the castle and extends beyond the curtain wall, which may indicate an earlier structure. Masonry tussling projects from the SE corner of the kitchen tower and fine windows are visible in the S curtain wall, which suggests that more buildings were originally planned within the castle walls. However, it would seem these were never completed. It is one of the vaults or undercrofts beneath the Great Hall in the N range that is the subject of this application.

The cultural significance of this part of the monument lies in its survival as a component of a castle that was largely laid out in a single operation with few significant alterations at a later date, and as such it provides an unusually comprehensive view of a high status lodging of late 14th and early 15th century date.

The applicant

The application is for alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop, and it is designed to both improve the commercial offering on site and also to improve visitor flow around the monument. The application has been submitted by HES Conservation Directorate, who manage Doune Castle as one of the top paid-for visitor attractions in Scotland. The application is accompanied by detailed drawings showing the minimal level of intervention to historic fabric, and a very brief assessment of impact on cultural significance.

Pre-application discussions

The applicant has discussed the proposed works with HES Heritage Directorate, and the current application accords with the outcome of these discussions.

3. Proposals

- Installation of a window frame using fixings into joints, so as to make the vault weathertight.
- Installation of a glazed door on the inside face of the existing entrance passage through the wall, so as to make the vault weathertight – the existing timber on the outside face of this passage (ie when viewed from the courtyard) will remain in situ.
- Installation of concrete floor to entrance passage, with no excavation required and a separating membrane between concrete and the existing.
- Installation of timber dooks into mortar joints on the barrel of the vault to take a lighting rig, and into mortar joints on the back wall of the vault to take part of the shop fittings – the number of dooks will be kept to the minimum.
- Installation of a floating timber floor on the existing concrete floor of the vault, kept back from the edges of the vault.
- Installation of shop fittings onto the new floating timber floor.

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Consented works – the works comprise alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop.

Aims – the purpose of the works is to both improve the commercial offering on site and also to improve visitor flow around the monument.

Timetable – the applicant hopes to undertake the work within the next few months so as to address commercial requirements in a timely manner prior to commencement of the summer season.

Personnel – where the proposed works interact with historic fabric, these works will be undertaken by the in-house HES Monument Conservation Unit who are suitably qualified and locally based. Shop fit-out works will be undertaken using components manufactured and supplied by a specialist company.

4. Representations received

The property is in the guardianship of HES; the landowner has confirmed in writing that they are content with the proposed works.

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.

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.

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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 works involve alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop, so as to both improve the commercial offering on site and also to improve visitor flow around the monument.

The physical impact of the alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop on the monument and its cultural significance will be negligible, as the works have been designed to minimise impact on historic fabric except for where fixings are made into mortar joints and where the concrete platt in the entrance passage is formed. The works do comprise an addition to the monument, although the visibility of this change when viewed externally will be negligible as the only external changes will be the addition of glazing to the inside face of the existing narrow window into the vault and the addition of a glazed door to the entrance passage, and this latter element will be set back. Internally, all works are entirely reversible, with the residual impact being fixings into mortar joints. As such, the works are not considered to impact on the cultural significance of the monument.

Whilst not directly for the benefit of the monument, the works will enable the commercial offering on site to be improved through the creation of a larger shop, with the former shop (in another vault) being repurposed for ticket sales and audio guide distribution. This change has been designed to help improve visitor flow around the monument as a result of increased visitor numbers to the site in recent years, and should consequently improve not only the visitor experience of the monument but also has the potential to enhance an understanding and appreciation of the monument for visitors.



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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely. There are bats at Doune Castle, but the existing bat survey bespoke to this vault concludes that no bats were found in this part of the monument and therefore a derogation licence under current legislation is not necessary for works.

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 works, comprising alterations to the vault beneath the Great Hall to form a shop, are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have a negligible 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 both improve the commercial offering on site and also to improve visitor flow around the monument; a consequential impact will be that visitor experience of the monument will be improved, and there is the potential for an enhanced understanding and appreciation of the monument for visitors. As such, the works meet with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

The application meets with paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement 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	Oliver Lewis	Date	25 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	26 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location plan – 22-11-16-06
- Proposed shop door design – 22-11-16-01
- Proposed shop entrance floor construction – 22-11-16-02
- Shop window – 22-11-16-03
- Proposed shop fixings details – 22-11-16-04
- Assessment of impact on cultural significance – email dated 13 Dec 2016