



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018999		
Scheduled Monument	Stirling Castle		
Index no	SM90291	Grid ref	NS 78800 94100
Date application validated	11 January 2017		
Summary of proposed works	Installation of railings to truncated forework tower		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens be granted with conditions.

2. Background

The historic environment asset and its cultural significance

The monument comprises Stirling Castle and its immediate setting. Stirling Castle is a strongly-fortified royal castle occupying a volcanic outcrop which commands the upper Forth valley. The 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 at the summit of the rock form a square enclosed by the King's Old Building, the Great Hall, the Chapel Royal and the Palace. The natural approach to the castle is along the gentle slope to the SE, so it was along this side that the chief defences were constructed.

The Queen Anne Gardens are located at the SW corner of the castle complex. This area, between the James IV Forework and the outer defences, may have been transformed into a garden as early as the 15th century, creating an elegant outdoor space which is still appreciated by visitors. A terraced walk from the Palace overlooking the W end of the garden was created against the forework in the mid-16th century. References to the maintenance of the castle's gardens begin in the 15th century and continue into the 17th century when an English gardener was appointed to



provide plants for Charles I. The Queen Anne Gardens were transformed into a bowling green in the 1620s.

The truncated tower is a much reduced component of the James IV Forework, and now forms part of a route and path from the Outer Close to the Queen Anne Gardens.

The cultural significance of the Queen Anne Gardens lies in their survival as a long-established and curated outdoor space designed for the benefit and enjoyment of those who occupied the castle. The cultural significance of the truncated tower lies in its survival as part of the James IV Forework; although much reduced, archaeological deposits may survive beneath more recent garden layers that can help inform the understanding of the tower and its use.

The applicant

The application is for the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens, and it is designed to address health and safety issues associated with unprotected drops. The application has been submitted by HES Conservation Group, who manage Stirling Castle as one of the top paid-for visitor attractions in Scotland. The application is accompanied by a detailed drawing showing the layout of the railings and the minimal level of intervention to previously undisturbed historic fabric, and an archaeological assessment.

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 railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens

Consented works – the works comprise the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens.

Aims – the purpose of the works is to address health and safety issues associated with unprotected drops and public access to these areas, and are similar to recent railing installation works in the Douglas Gardens.

Timetable – the applicant hopes to undertake the work within the next year so as to address the health and safety issues in a timely manner.



Personnel – the works will be undertaken by the in-house HES Monument Conservation Unit, who are suitably qualified and locally based, using components manufactured and supplied by a specialist company. Excavation for the railing footings will be monitored by Kirkdale Archaeology, who are suitably qualified and experienced with working at Stirling Castle.

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.

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.

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
- b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;
- c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
- d. that the management and execution of alteration, including remedial work, is sympathetic to the historic character;
- e. that appropriate skills and techniques, materials and construction techniques are specified where appropriate;
- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- g. that it is possible, on close inspection, to differentiate new work from old particularly on masonry structures;
- h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects; and
- i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

b) Assessment

The works involve the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens, so as to address health and safety issues associated with unprotected drops and public access to these areas.

The physical impact of the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens on the monument and its cultural significance will be negligible, as the works have been designed to minimise impact on previously undisturbed historic fabric. Whilst a couple of fixings will go into historic masonry joints (and another into a modern slab), the majority of the railing is supported using posts set on concrete pad foundations that are within the interior of



the truncated tower. Whilst it is most likely that excavation for these foundations will impact upon entirely made-up and modern garden deposits, there is the potential for impact on previously undisturbed archaeological deposits; whilst the foundations have been designed as small as possible, excavation of these will still require archaeological monitoring. The works do comprise an addition to the monument, although one that would not appear incongruous given other railings protecting steep drops elsewhere on the monument. The legibility of the railings is such that they will not impact on the way that the architectural form of the truncated tower is understood. As such, the works are not considered to impact on the cultural significance of the monument.

The installation of the railing is designed to address health and safety issues associated with unprotected drops and public access to this part of the monument. There is a residual risk that visitors passing through the doorway from the Outer Close to the top of the truncated tower do not fully appreciate the height of the drop should they move off the paved path, and this risk is greater when there are higher numbers of visitors trying to access this area at the same time. Installing the railings should therefore improve the physical and intellectual access that visitors have to the site. As such, the works should enable an enhanced appreciation of the monument and the historic environment in general.

Although an archaeological assessment has been provided as part of the application, it recognises that an archaeological WSI will be required in advance of excavating for the concrete foundation pads for each post. Given the nature of the works and the monument, a watching brief is considered suitable. The provision of a WSI would enable the application to be considered 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 is considered likely.

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 the installation of railings to the truncated tower of the James IV Forework within the Queen Anne Gardens, 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.

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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The objectives of the proposed work have a clear public benefit, as they will enable renewed and safer access to the route between the Inner Close and the Queen Anne Gardens and help foster an appreciated for the monument. As such, the works meet with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

The works have been designed to have a low impact on the scheduled monument and its cultural significance. In order to ensure full compliance under paragraph 3.20 of the policy statement, an archaeological WSI is required to cover the ground breaking works, so as per paragraph 3.22 of the policy statement a condition to control the production of the WSI is necessary.

Condition 1 is to allow for the submission of a suitable WSI to cover archaeological monitoring of ground breaking works, to ensure that archaeological information is recorded.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, 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, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI)/project design and has had this WSI approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland. This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved development.

Reason: to ensure that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

8. Approval

Case officer	Oliver Lewis	Date	23 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	24 January 2017

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Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Location plan – 333/291/U/99
- Drawing showing detail of new railings at truncated tower – 333/291/U/98
- Assessment of archaeological response – report dated 09 Jan 2017