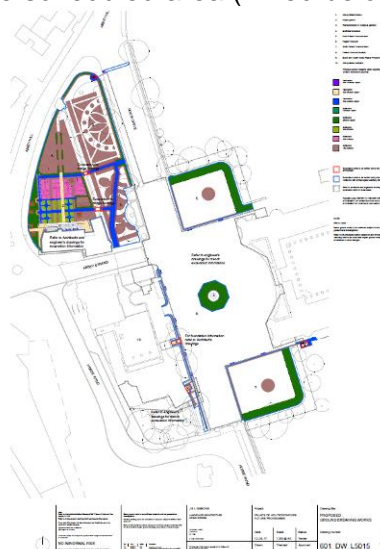
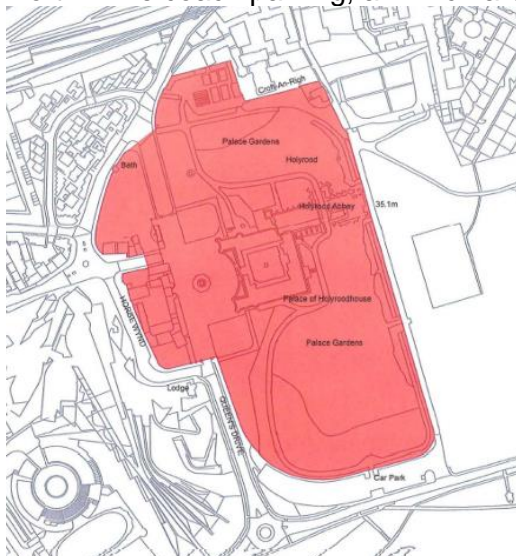
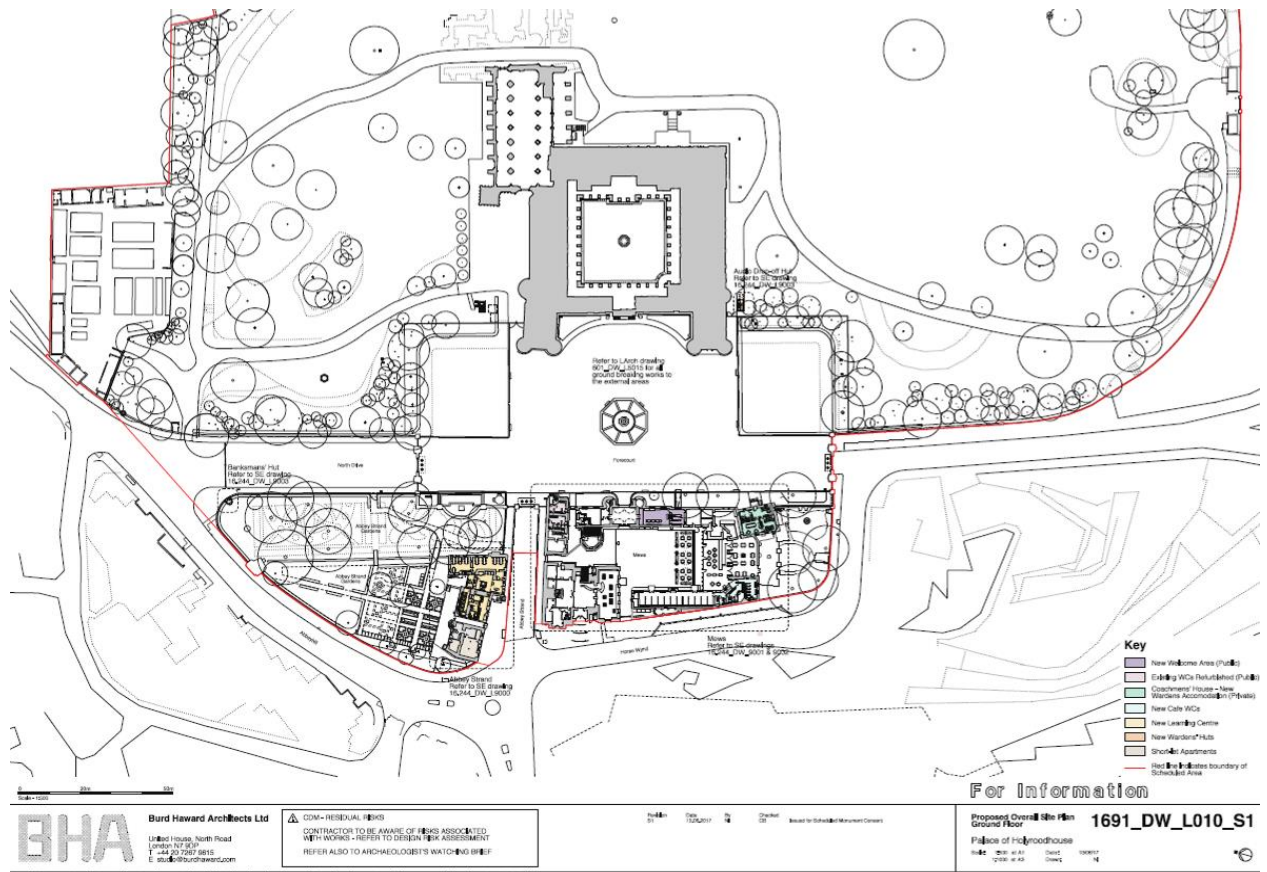


Case reference	SMC-EDB-001
Application details Site address	Programme of trial trenching and open area excavation in relation to future works at Holyrood Abbey, precinct and associated remains (SM 13031), Palace of Holyroodhouse grounds, Edinburgh
Applicant Determining Authority Local Authority Area	Royal Household Property Section Historic Environment Scotland (HES) City of Edinburgh Council
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by Historic Environment Scotland go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
Representations	2
Date notified to Ministers Date of recommendation	29 August 2017 but not fully documented until 1 September 2017 20 September 2017
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for a programme of extensive archaeological trial trenching and open area excavation and evaluation within the Holyrood Abbey precinct at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. The monument comprises Holyrood Abbey and its precinct, associated buried remains and the upstanding Abbey ruins, Abbey Strand buildings and all associated buildings. Works are proposed to eight areas covering the Palace and Forecourt, Abbey Strand buildings (short let apartments and new learning centre) and gardens, the Mews buildings (new welcome area, café and WCs), Coachmen's House (new warden accommodation) and North Drive coach parking, all which are within the scheduled area (in red below).





- The ruins of Holyrood Abbey are of national importance as they represent one of Scotland's foremost medieval monastic houses, adapted and modified at the Reformation. In the vicinity, and beneath the present Royal palace and gardens, significant remains of earlier structures are known to lie beneath due to previous archaeological investigations.

Consultations and Representations:

- 2 representations were received. HES Conservation Directorate was consulted on the application as they have management responsibilities for part of the site subject to the works. They requested appropriate preventative measures for excavation works at the forecourt entrance with a noting of the depth of upstanding masonry foundations and sufficient advance programming to be agreed for excavation works and new service routes. The City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS) was consulted and is, in principle, content with the proposed works. However they noted that not all areas requiring archaeological mitigation to be agreed with CECAS were included in the Written Statement of Investigation, therefore further information must be submitted for approval before works commence on site as failure to do so could be a breach of the related planning consent.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they are not aware of any broader context or issues surrounding the case and cannot identify any reasons why the case should be called in by Ministers.

Assessment:

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant consent for extensive archaeological excavations which will impact on grounds of the Palace as the insertion of numerous trenches/open excavations, with its related ground disturbance and

removal of material goes beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. This is a significant departure from policy as set out in paragraph 3.16 and 3.18 of HES' Policy Statement.

2. The application has been made by Burd Haward Architects on behalf of the Royal Collection Trust (RCT). The archaeological excavations will be carried out by Kirkdale Archaeology, a highly experienced unit who have a track record of successful delivery of projects through to publication especially at the Palace and Edinburgh Castle.
3. The proposed works include i), investigative soil analysis and archaeological monitoring to inform detailed designs for soft landscape works in the Palace Forecourt and Abbey Strand gardens (9 trenches); ii), archaeological evaluation trenches in Abbey Strand garden to inform full archaeological mitigation during the implementation of landscape works (14 trenches); iii), full archaeological excavation of selected areas of ground breaking for foundations/footings and structural slabs for new service installations across the site (8 areas with 50+ trenches of varying size and depth).
4. These works are intended to inform a major project known as 'the Future Programme' (FP). FP is a range of initiatives being implemented both at Windsor Castle and Holyrood designed to meet the charitable aims of the RCT and ensure the Palaces and Royal Collection can be valued and enjoyed by everyone. The overriding aim for Holyrood is to reconnect the palace with the city by making minimal interventions and repurposing buildings while responding to the historical and cultural significance of the site, improving visitor access, welcome and facilities, increasing opportunities for learning, enhancing interpretation of the Palace and Royal Collection and enhancing the quality of external spaces and gardens.
5. HES consider the extensive works have been justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 and 3.19 of their policy statement especially as they intend to considerably enhance and promote a key tourist attraction in Scotland and the public benefits of the works are nationally important. The application partially meets paragraph 3.20 as while the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority sensitively designed and properly planned, however further consultation will be needed as the detail of the scheme may need to be revised as works progress. Three conditions are required to enable the application to be compliant with paragraph 3.20 covering the provision of a revised Written Statement of Investigation (including assessment of the long term impact of new tree growth), the production of a timescale for works and the production of a non-archaeological ground breaking method statement.
6. Overall, HES consider the benefits of the project are greater than the negative effects of the removal of archaeological deposits and that the proposal is broadly consistent with policy. However the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary, consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, hence the requirement to notify Ministers.
7. In summary, the SMC application, while extensive, does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

8. The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to issue Scheduled Monument Consent with three conditions.