



Case reference	SMC-ABD-001
Application details	Installation of temporary viewing platform, supporting foundations, soakaway pit, decking and walkway
Site address	Torry Battery, Battery 130M ESE of Old South Breakwater
Applicant	Greyhope Bay Limited
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	City of Aberdeen
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	NIL
Date notified to Ministers	12 March 2019
Date of recommendation	1 April 2019
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- The application is for the installation of a temporary marine viewing platform, supporting foundations, soakaway pit, decking and walkway within boundary of Torry Battery scheduled monument.
- The viewing platform would be created from two shipping containers clad with Scottish larchwood including a glass front to give views to the harbour mouth and sea. The north elevation of the platform would stand on concrete piers, to be installed on the buried foundations of the battery perimeter wall. The remaining foundations would comprise concrete pads, to be laid within the footprints of evaluation trenches already dug out under archaeological supervision. The containers would be fitted out off site, then delivered and lifted into position by crane. Decking would be on two levels. Surface water would drain into a shallow soakaway trench north of the platform. Electricity would be provided by solar pv panels on the platform roof. Temporary toilet facilities would be provided outwith the scheduled monument area.
- If the temporary platform is successful, the aim is to insert a permanent marine experience centre facility for visitors to appreciate the marine life at the harbour entrance, and in particular to provide a high profile dolphin watch facility.
- The monument is the remains of a military battery, built around 1860. The monument is of national importance because it is a rare 19th century battery that shows a long sequence of use.

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during consideration of the application.
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Heritage Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and are content that this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.
- Upon notification the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) were consulted and had no comments to make.

Assessment:

1. The application has been notified as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant scheduled monument consent, subject to two conditions, for a proposal that meets the Notification requirements as it is not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument.
2. The HES report of handling sets out that previous evaluation has shown the platform's foundations would have no physical impact on remains of the monument. Levelling for decking and digging of a soakaway can be monitored to ensure there is no impact on significant archaeological remains.
3. HES consider that the works would have some temporary visual impact, being highly visible in some views to and from the monument. However, HES are satisfied that this visual impact would not obscure important parts of the monument and the platform would be temporary. HES have proposed a condition to ensure that archaeological mitigation needs to be agreed and controlled through the submission and agreement of a method statement (Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)). A second condition is proposed requiring removal of the temporary platform after a fixed period.
4. The HES report of handling sets out the following benefits of the proposal: bringing additional visitors to the monument; increasing public understanding and appreciation of the monument; increasing footfall and making vandalism less likely; and contributing to the development of a permanent scheme that would deliver consolidation of the monument.
5. HES are satisfied that subject to compliance with the two conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.
6. This SMC application is not considered to raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to issue Scheduled Monument Consent.