



Case reference	SMC-EDB-003
Application details Site address	Erection and dismantling of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo grandstands from 2018-2022 Edinburgh Castle Esplanade
Applicant Determining Authority Local Authority Area	The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Limited Historic Environment Scotland City of Edinburgh Council
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by <b>Historic Environment Scotland</b> go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
Representations	3
Date notified to Ministers Date of recommendation	4 May 2018 but not fully documented until 8 May 2018 10 May 2018
Decision / recommendation	Clear

## Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the erection of a temporary grandstand and ancillary accommodation on Edinburgh Castle esplanade and the erection of a temporary stage, within an area known as the dry ditch, and their subsequent dismantling.
- The monument is of national importance because of its supreme historical, architectural, archaeological and overall cultural significance. It comprises all buildings, structures, wells, fortifications, street furniture, historic plaques, roadways and other open spaces within the castle rock walls. The scheduled area (outlined in red below) is irregular and includes the above features as well as an area around them where traces of previous castle activities may survive.



## **Consultations and Representations:**

- The Commercial & Tourism and Conservation Directorates of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) were consulted. As pre-application discussions had taken place no further comments were necessary.
- SNH were consulted as the castle rock and esplanade is within the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI and they raised no concerns.
- The City of Edinburgh Council were consulted as landowners of Princes Street Gardens where some of the temporary structures are located. They are content.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they have no comments to make on the proposal.

## **Assessment:**

1. SMC is sought for the erection of temporary grandstand seating for 8,700 people and associated infrastructure to support the delivery of the world famous annual Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, to cover the period 2018-2022. A previous SMC covered the period 2012-2017.
2. The application has been submitted by The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Limited, a not-for profit organisation. The tattoo was first staged in 1950 and is now of international significance with over 220,000 people attending every year.
3. The major impact on the setting and views of the monument would be from the construction of the grandstands. They are erected using a prefabricated steel superstructure in modular units which is delivered to site by lorry and installed in a sequential manner. The structure is fixed to the ground using permanent below ground fixings, denoted by surface manhole covers in the esplanade, that were installed in line with previous consents. There are no further physical changes arising from this application. Grandstand building works would commence in May each year with a construction period of approximately 40 days. The temporary stage would follow in July. After the final Tattoo performance, the dismantling of grandstands and stage would take approx. 40 days, with the site being cleared by mid-October each year.
4. HES believe the works are extensive but they are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that it will have minimal permanent impact on the cultural significance of the monument and are reversible. The event is now considered to form part of the cultural significance of the castle and has the following public benefits: i) delivery of 25 performances of an annual event that is a long-standing feature of the Edinburgh Festivals with a worldwide television audience of over 100 million; ii) direct and indirect generation of £100m economic impact; and iii) annual charitable donations of approximately £1m.
5. HES consider the works have therefore been justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 of the HES Policy Statement 2016. They also do not conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 and also meets paragraph 3.20 requirements because it has demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

6. HES state the application has been accompanied by a detailed construction method statement and project management plan that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology. However, in order to ensure the works comply with their policy statement, two conditions are considered necessary. Condition 1 is to restrict the maximum permitted time period as 154 calendar days to ensure that the work is carried out so as to minimise disturbance to the monument and to maintain access to the monument and Condition 2 is to review the annual timetable of works to enable a representative of Historic Environment Scotland to have the opportunity to inspect the work for which consent is granted.
7. In summary, HES consider the nationally important benefits of the proposals are greater than the negative effects of the proposed installation on the setting and cultural significance of the castle. Therefore they believe the proposal is broadly consistent with relevant policy, however as the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in the monument there is the requirement to notify Scottish Ministers.
8. In conclusion, this SMC application does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

**Recommendation:**

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