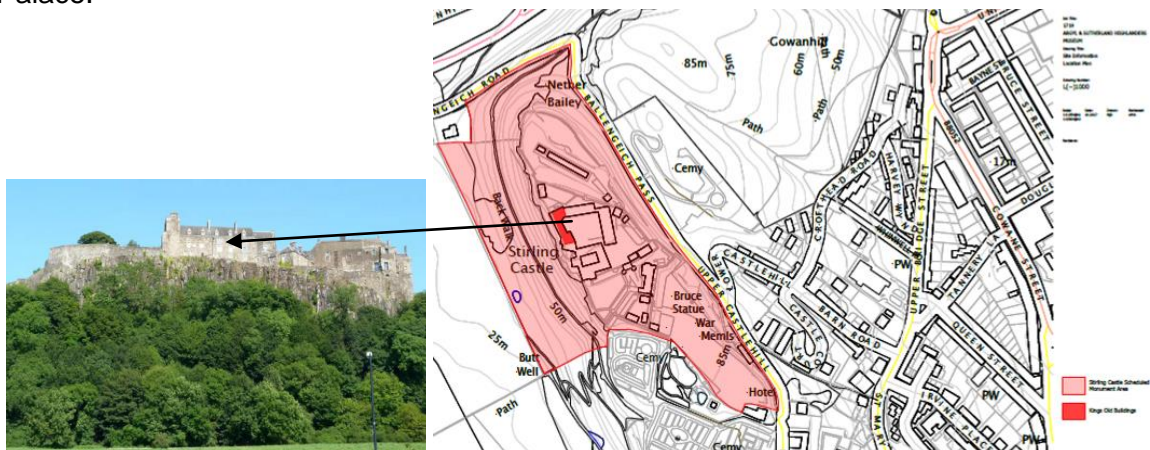




Case reference	SMC-STG-001
Application details	Redevelopment of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Museum, Kings Old Buildings, Stirling Castle (SM 90291)
Applicant	The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	Stirling Council
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	Nil
Date notified to Ministers	13 April 2018
Date of recommendation	24 May 2018
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the redevelopment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum which occupies the majority of the Kings Old Buildings (shown in dark red below with the scheduled area in light red), within the heart of Stirling Castle. The castle is a strongly fortified royal base occupying a volcanic outcrop which commands the upper Forth valley. The principal buildings for royal occupation form a square enclosed by the King's Old Building, the Great Hall, the Chapel Royal and the Palace.



- The castle is a complex of diverse buildings and spaces added to over the centuries. By the 17th century, the castle's role changed from royal residence to military centre. The active use as a military barracks and depot ceased in 1964.

- Today Stirling Castle is managed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) on behalf of Scottish Ministers and is one of Scotland's most significant historic assets and top visitor attractions. It attracts over half a million visitors each year. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' museum, within the King's Old Building, currently attracts around 200,000 visitors a year and is a significant part of the Castle experience. It contains a nationally important collection of military artefacts and silver together with extensive archives.



Upper Square courtyard with Kings Old Buildings range to left
© Andrew Wright



Kings Old Buildings South block with museum entrance
© RCAHMS

- The Kings Old Buildings comprise a North, South and East block and with the earliest parts dating to 1452 and built as royal apartments. The North and South Blocks originally contained a series of five individual vaults accessed from ground floor level. The principal floor consisted of a hall, chambers, closets and a kitchen all reached by way of a spiral stair in a square projection, topped by an octagonal caphouse. Its conversion to use as a military building saw major changes to the South Block, with the roof of three vaults removed to enable the insertion of an additional floor. A fire in 1855 led to the loss of a significant portion of the rooms of the North Block and the upper floors of the East Block. Rebuilding works by the antiquarian architect Robert Billings greatly altered the north and east façades of the East Block. Further alterations were made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

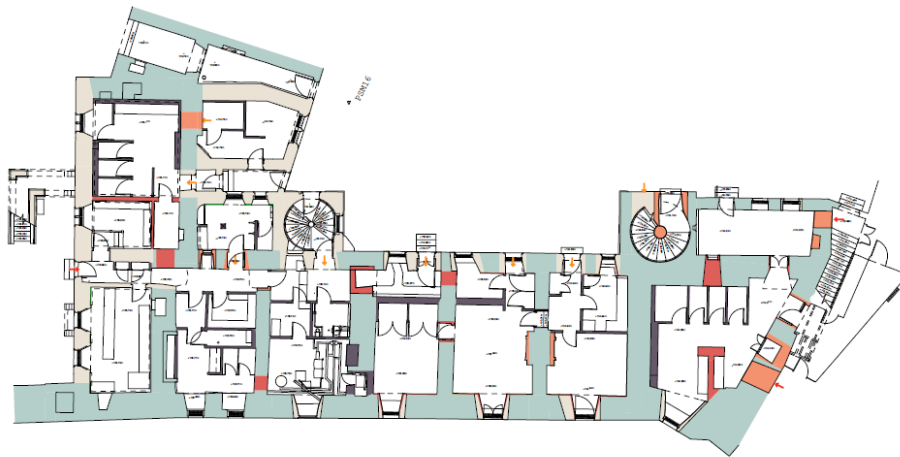


Kings Old Buildings East and North Block ranges perched on the castle rock



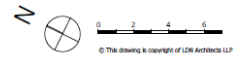
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- Floor plans and long section by LDN Architects indicating architectural significance within Kings Old Buildings follow next:

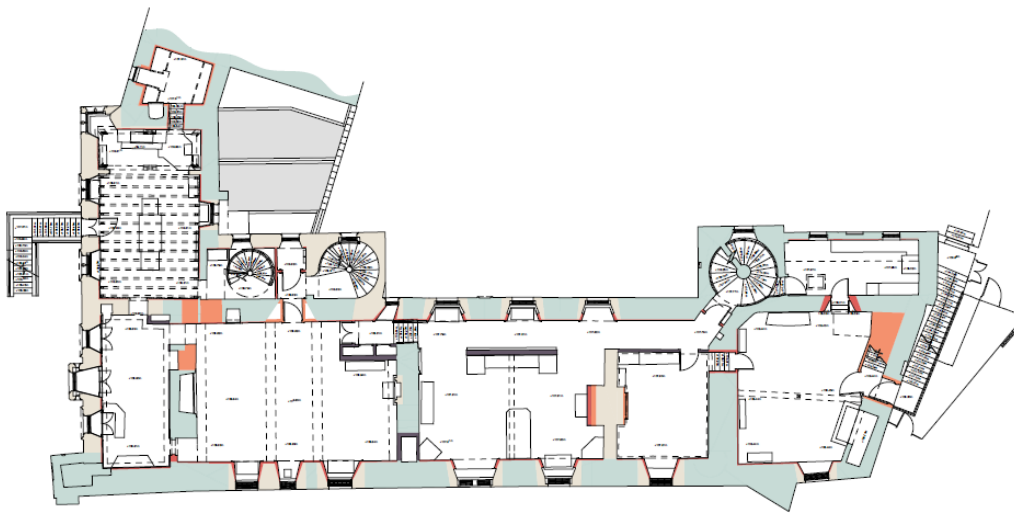


- ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
- EXCEPTIONAL
 - CONSIDERABLE
 - SOME
 - LITTLE / NEUTRAL
 - DETRIMENTAL

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

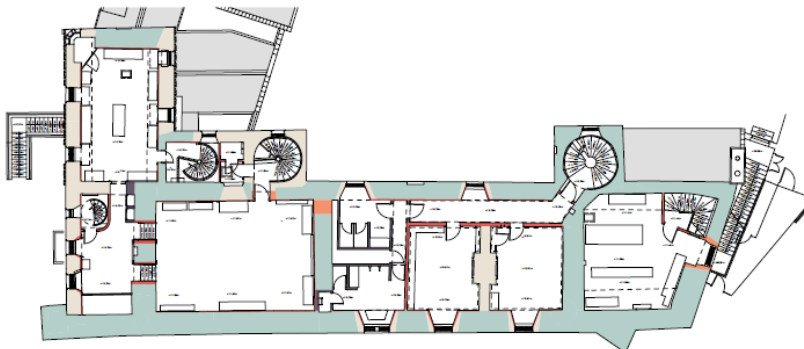


© LDN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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 0141 204 1000 | www.ldnarchitects.com

Job Title:
 1719
 ARDY & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS
 MUSEUM

Drawing Title:
 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
 Second Floor Plan and Section

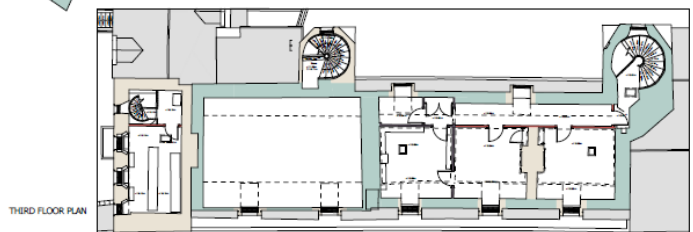
Drawing Number:
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Scale: Date: Status: Version:
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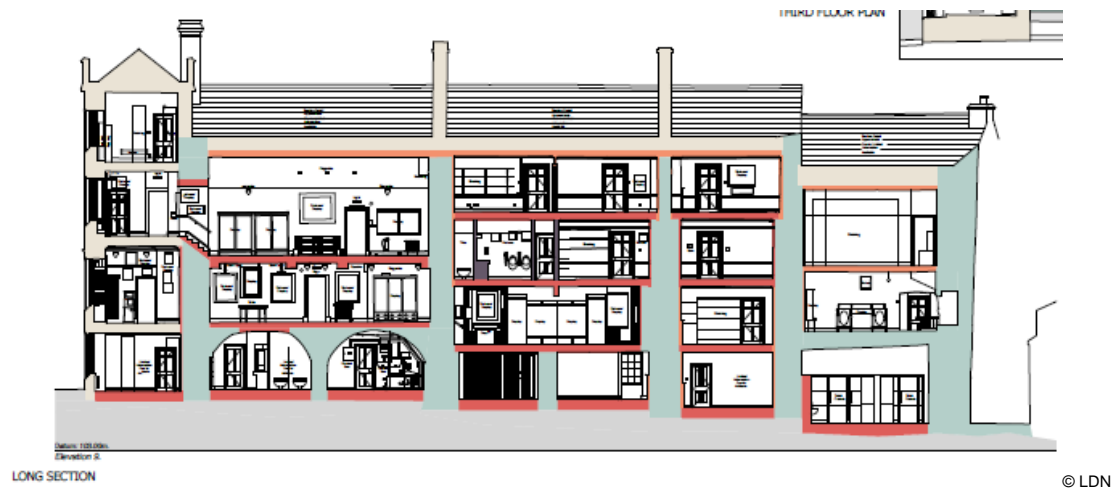
Author:
 A 07/01/2017 101 000

Group used:

© LDN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



- The redevelopment of the Kings Old Buildings, to house the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' museum, in the late 1970s included the replacement of many of the floors and ceilings. Whilst individual components of the intervention do not contribute greatly to the cultural significance of the monument, the intervention, taken as a whole, is one of the most significant and best documented interventions in the building's changing history.



Museum main exhibition floors



The Douglas Room



Attic storage space

- Despite the many changes and alterations, the King's Old Building remains a key element of the Stirling Castle complex. Its construction began an important re-alignment of the upper square. It would have been one of the most important and impressive royal buildings in the upper square, before it was eclipsed by James V's Palace block.

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted SG Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they have no comments to make on the proposal.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Directorate (HES) are minded to grant SMC for this application to redevelop the museum premises however the works proposed go beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument.
2. The application has been submitted by LDN Architects on behalf of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Museum Trust. The application is accompanied by an extensive range of supporting documents, detailing the significance of the building, the aims of the project, the design evolution of the scheme and impact of the proposals. HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken extensive pre-application discussions with the applicant over a number of years regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application generally accords with the outcome of those discussions.
3. The aims of the project are to secure the long term future of the Regimental Museum. The withdrawal of funding by the Ministry of Defence in 2011 has affected the operation of the museum. In its current form it is unsustainable and under threat of closure. The seven key project aims are as follows:
 - The museum will be sympathetically modified to improve the visitors' experience, update the building's services, enhance accessibility and provide a more sustainable operation for The Argylls;
 - Heritage will be better interpreted and become more comprehensible, providing a more inclusive and accessible experience;
 - Collections care and conservation will be enhanced with a better understanding of the existing collections and collecting policies for the future implemented;
 - Visitor numbers to the museum are expected to increase as a consequence of the project, with outreach activities with communities and audiences outside Stirling Castle being expanded and improved;
 - Educational accessibility and opportunities will be built upon to provide positive learning experiences for schools and education groups;
 - Financial sustainability of the Museum will be achieved for the long term through both the physical changes to the building and operational adjustments;
 - The Argylls name as an element of the UK's and Scotland's military history will be preserved and enhanced.
4. The interventions sought would improve visitor flow throughout the museum, increase capacity and accessibility, improve retail, interpretation and presentation space, and improve the facilities that the museum can offer. HES consider the works proposed are extensive, covering every room within the Kings Old Buildings, and have categorised their impact according to scale of intervention – major, moderate and minor. The nine major interventions proposed are:
 - 1) The formation of a new entrance on the eastern façade of the South Block – this will be formed by removing blocking from a previous opening, installing a new door, steps and a handrail
 - 2) Installation of a new stair in the south corner of the South Block rising from ground to first floor– this will be formed by removing a section of 1970s ceiling. The stair will fix only to 1970s fabric
 - 3) Unblocking of a doorway in the South Block – this is the location of a previous doorway. Modern plaster lining will be removed to reveal the extent of the previous opening, and blocking will be carefully removed

- 4) Structural changes to the ground floor of the South Block, involving the removal of load bearing 1970s brick walls, and replacement with a steel post and beam support structure
- 5) Unblocking of a doorway between the North and South Blocks – this is the location of a previous doorway. Modern plaster lining will be removed to reveal the extent of the previous opening, and blocking will be carefully removed. A steel support will be formed to support the vault above
- 6) Insertion of a new staircase in the building occupying the re-entrant angle to the North and East Blocks. The toilets occupying the ground floor will be removed together with 1970s ceilings, floors and the existing spiral stair case. A new stair will be inserted rising from ground to second floor. It will be hung from pre-existing modern fabric
- 7) Structural changes to the first floor of the South Block, involving the removal of load bearing 1970s brick walls, and replacement with a steel post and beam support structure
- 8) Structural changes to the first floor of the North Block, involving the removal of load bearing 1970s brick walls, and replacement with a steel post and beam support structure and
- 9) Structural changes to the first and second floor Annex, to the south of the South Block, involving the removal of a modern support post, and installation of a support truss in the room above

5. The moderate and minor interventions include:

- Removal of modern partitions and installation of new partitions
 - Installation of a new kitchenette and toilet
 - Remodelling of existing toilets to create a store
 - Movement of various plant and electrical equipment
 - Installation of security, Wi-Fi and lighting systems
 - Changes to heating layout
 - Boxing in of a fireplace on the ground floor
 - Installation of interpretation and display units and signage
 - Various plaster and flooring repairs
 - General redecoration throughout and repairs and redecoration to windows, including unblocking and mechanising of openings.
6. HES consider the detrimental impacts include the intervention to create the new door on the east façade, installation of a new stair from the ground floor of the South Block, unblocking of the doorway between the North and South Blocks, blocking of the fireplace in the North Block, and installation of a kitchenette and toilet on the second floor of the East Block. Whilst all can be constructed / achieved without loss of historic fabric, they represent a significant alteration to the building in its current form.
 7. HES believe however, these detrimental impacts should be balanced against the positive impacts elsewhere. The refurbishment of the Douglas Room, in particular the treatment of timber linings, unblocking of the fireplace and decluttering of the space will provide significant benefits. Similarly, the removal of internal partitions on the ground floor will reinstate the original spaces. The proposed works will provide significant public benefits in terms of enhanced visitor experience, improved educational facilities and access to the building, as well as improved collections care and conservation for the nationally-important collection. This will enable the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' museum to operate in a sustainable manner, ensuring its future survival and preservation of The Argylls name as an element of the UK's and Scotland's military history

8. In general, HES consider the applicant has provided a robust assessment of impact, with elements of the redevelopment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum which raise concern, carefully mitigated to ensure the overall impact is minimal on the cultural significance of the monument. HES disagrees with the applicant's assessment of significance in a small number of instances, but given the complexity of the building, minor disagreements relating to under- or over-rating significance are not surprising. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 of the HES Policy Statement 2016. The works have been carefully considered, with each intervention fully justified. An understanding of the significance of the building has informed the design of the scheme, ensuring important features are fully protected. The works have therefore been justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17, 3.18 and 3.19 of their policy statement.
9. However in order to ensure the works fully comply with the HES Policy Statement, as outlined in paragraph 3.22, HES consider a range of conditions are necessary. 29 conditions covering aspects such as the timetabling of works, fabric repairs and alterations/removal, structural interventions, and services routes/service trenches are to be attached.
10. HES consider that overall, taking both positive and detrimental impacts into account, the scheme has been sensitively designed to ensure the impacts on the King's Old Building and its cultural significance are minimal. The applicant has demonstrated that the proposed works will generate benefits of national importance which outweigh the impact of the national cultural significance of the monument. Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable and accounting for other material considerations the proposal is concluded to be broadly consistent with relevant policy.
11. As the proposal is not considered to be the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, there is a requirement to notify Scottish Ministers as per The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015. The level of detail submitted with the application has helped significantly with understanding the changes and the impacts on a national monument of exceptional significance. As the works have been carefully planned with a range of professional advice and will deliver significant benefits to the public, HES' approach and consideration do not raise any issues.
12. In summary, this SMC application, while affecting a monument of exceptional national significance, 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 grant Scheduled Monument Consent with 29 conditions attached.