



Case reference	SMC-CLK-001
Application details	Installation of interpretative beacon
Site address	Clackmannan Tower, Clackmannan (SM 90073)
Applicant	Inner Forth Landscape Initiative
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	Clackmannanshire 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	Nil
Date notified to Ministers	7 June 2018
Date of recommendation	22 June 2018
Decision / recommendation	Clear

## Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is being sought for the installation of an interpretive beacon made up of a sculptural gabion bench with engraved granite slabs at Clackmannan Tower (Figure 1).
- The monument (Figure 2) comprises a roofed and substantially complete medieval tower-house which was built in the later 14th century and further developed in phases during the 15th to 17th centuries. It also contains some re-instated fabric deriving from repairs that followed the collapse of a large section of the east wall in 1950. To the south are gardens and a square enclosure which was probably a bowling green. It is the garden that this application for the bench relates to.

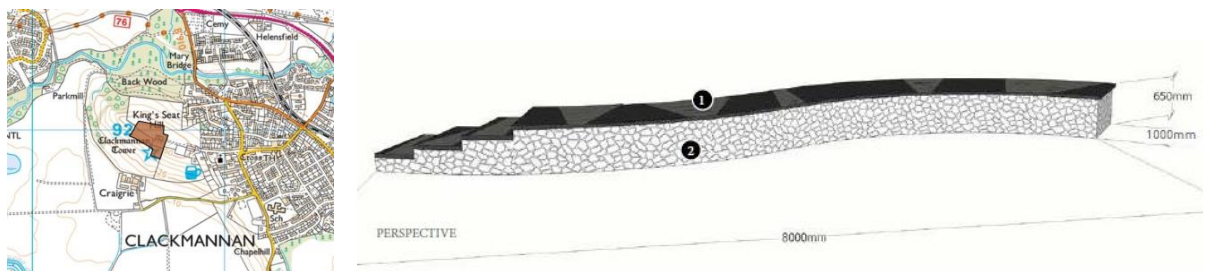


Figure 1 - Proposed Interpretive Beacon/Bench and Scheduled Area in brown (From Project Design)



Figure 2 - Location for beacon/bench in grey (From Project Design)

- The monument is a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers and is considered to be of national importance for a number of reasons including, understanding the development of noble residences in the late medieval and post-medieval periods, the evidence for associated gardens and enclosures which is a relatively rare survival and that it was owned by a single family for over 400 years.

### **Consultations and Representations:**

- No representations were made during consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they are content and have no further comment to make.

### **Assessment:**

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant consent for the works. However, as the proposed addition to the scheduled monument has no direct conservation benefit, this 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 section 3.16 of HES' Policy Statement 2016.
2. The application has been submitted by the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. The proposed works are part of a wider project to install seven beacons around the Inner Forth, and one of two within Clackmannanshire. The wider project forms an integral part of a Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership Scheme which focuses on the upper Firth of Forth. The beacons have been developed through extensive community engagement and are intended as a permanent legacy feature of the £3.8m four-year project.
3. The location of the beacon was chosen because of the opportunity to emphasise the visual and cultural links the site has with the wider Inner Forth natural and built landscape. The 360° views encompass a number of both built and natural heritage features including, the tower itself, the wider Alloa and Clackmannan Estates, the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century industries (colliery, wagonway, harbours) and the expansive views of the Forth Estuary. HES consider that the beacon location is demonstrative of the project as a whole and will be a key feature of the Inner Forth experience for locals and visitors alike.

4. The proposed location of the bench is situated on the remains of the terraced gardens to the south of the tower as shown in Figure 2 above. The physical impact of the proposed works would be the addition of a large structural stone element to the scheduled area.
5. HES state, as the proposed works involve a very small section - less than 1% of the monument - and there are no ground disturbance works involved, they are content there would be no physical impact on historic fabric. They consider the works are not extensive.
6. Despite the small area for the proposed works, HES acknowledge that its scale and form will represent a significant addition to the scheduled monument. However, they consider its form and construction will ensure that it is read as a clearly modern addition, which is entirely reversible. HES state that simple design and scale of the bench will be such that there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of the monument.
7. In conclusion, HES consider that the physical impact of these works on the monument and its cultural significance would be comparatively minor and would be accompanied by a range of activities that would engage the wider public and the local community. They consider that this should enhance the appreciation of the monument and the historic environment in general. They believe the works are broadly in line with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the HES Policy Statement 2016.
8. However, the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary, consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, hence the requirement to notify Ministers
9. In summary, the SMC does **not** 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 without conditions.