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Team Leader - Estates
Aberdeen City Council
Estates
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Aberdeenshire Council
Archaeology Service
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30 August 2024

Dear Cate,

Proposed Phase 2 Development by Greyhope Bay Ltd at Torry Battery

The Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS), via a Shared Service Agreement, provides an archaeological service to Aberdeen City Council. As part of this role, the Service oversees all planning applications submitted to the Council, assessing potential impacts on the historic environment and advising when archaeological mitigation is required. The Service also provides advice and guidance to Aberdeen City Council on historic assets owned by the Council when required. It is within both these particular capacities of our service provision that this letter is written with specific regard to the next phase of proposed works at Torry Battery by Greyhope Bay Ltd.

Having attended various discussions with Greyhope Bay Ltd and Historic Environment Scotland, I am of the opinion that the current application for a variation of the time limit on the existing building and decking (Planning Application 240208/S42) is acceptable, and that any proposed Phase 2 works, as discussed prior to a formal planning application to date, will not adversely impact upon the fabric or structure of the historic Battery itself. Indeed, some of the remedial repair works being proposed would in fact be of benefit to the structure.

Torry Battery has gone through a variety of different uses since it was first constructed, and this latest development can be viewed as a positive step in the long-term management and safeguarding of the site against further decay or anti-social behaviour.

One issue which has been discussed is the ongoing activity of private cars driving through the gateway into the Battery in order to access the viewing platform and café. Steps should be taken to prevent this, including the erection of appropriate signage (with Scheduled Monument Consent from HES if applicable) and the consideration of physical barriers within the gateway such as bollards (that are in keeping with the heritage value of the Battery itself).

Taking all of this into consideration, I can recommend that the Council support the proposals from an archaeological perspective.

Should there be any queries regarding the above, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Bruce Mann MA MCIfA FSA Scot FRSA
Senior Historic Environment Officer
Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service