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Sent: 28 July 2021 15:14

To: Vivien Emery <vivien.emery@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Cc: McBrien, Hugh (NRS) <Hugh.McBrien@glasgow.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: 2020/0260/DET Roderick Dhu, Loch Katrine (OFFICIAL)

OFFICIAL

Hello Vivian,

We don't have anything recorded in the HER database about either the watchtower or the path, and neither appears to have been depicted on any of the historic map coverages available in our system (though I would also say that there only seems to be a limited number of maps available for this area). I'm afraid that I couldn't actually make out the watchtower on any of the three historical photographs shown on page 14 of the final presentation document, as zooming in causes them to pixelate too much, though it's possible that any structure may have been visible on the original versions. The building is clearly identifiable on the painting shown on the same page, though the obvious issue with a painting is that it's entirely possible that the artist may have added a building that wasn't actually there, either to improve the composition or to show something that 'should have been there', to fit in with the Walter Scott poem.

The supporting information provided by the applicant states that the original Roderick Dhu path and watchtower were developed following the success of the 'Lady of the Lake', which was published in 1810, suggesting that the original structure (if it indeed existed) may have been essentially constructed as a 19th century tourist attraction or folly, rather than necessarily representing a structure that was in place before that date. I'm also not entirely convinced that the structure shown on the painting is in the same position as the new 'watch tower' that's proposed under the current application, though again, this could be down to artistic licence.

Given that the original tower doesn't appear in the HER database and isn't shown on any of the maps available to me, the extent of any archaeological issue associated with the proposal is difficult to judge. If there was in fact a 17th century (or earlier) tower on the site, then any proposal to construct a new viewing structure on top of it would raise a potentially-significant issue; however, the magnitude of this issue would be reduced if any new structure could be positioned off the actual site of the earlier building. If the tower shown in the painting was essentially a 19th century folly that was constructed to fit in with the romantic landscapes of Scott's poem, this would probably be of less importance, though it would still be of some interest (and again, there'd be a difference in the severity of any impact depending on whether the new structure was built on any visible remains of the earlier building, or could be located off its footprint). If the building shown in the painting is basically an artistic fabrication, or if it existed but stood in a completely different location than the proposed new viewing structure, then the potential direct impact would likely be minimal, as there'd be little scope for construction to have a direct physical impact on surviving remains.

The impact of the proposal on the historic environment could therefore encompass the full spectrum, from minimal to significant, depending on whether it would directly affect any physical remains associated with an earlier tower, and whether this tower was constructed as a Victorian folly or was in place before this. I know that the various supporting documents include photos showing sections of the route of the proposed new path, but I couldn't find anything to indicate that the applicant had identified any foundations indicating where the 19th century tower actually stood, so there'd be some scope to ask for a survey of the area to look for these, as this would allow a more accurate assessment of the impact of the proposal. In the event that this survey did identify the foundations of an earlier tower within the area that would be disturbed by construction of either the path or the new watch tower, the applicant could either be asked to consider an alternative position, to preserve these remains *in situ*, or if this was not possible, to undertake a programme of fieldwork designed to mitigate the impact of their proposal on the remnants of the earlier structure.

As I said, I can't find any record of the watch tower in our database or on any of the available historic maps; however, I've copied Hugh into this response, as he's got access to a range of additional sources that may make some reference to it. If he does find any additional information, he'll be able to get back to you in due course.

Regards,

Martin