

Speaking for Scotland's Buildings



5 March 2020

planning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Development Management
Planning and Building Standards
Aberdeenshire Council

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Application Ref: APP/2020/0205

Site Address: Crathes Castle Crathes Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 5QJ

Description: Redevelopment of the Rose Garden, to include Alterations to Footpaths, Timber Bench Seating, Ironwork Arbour's and Central Feature

As a heritage organisation, The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland is supportive of any initiatives aimed at retaining historic buildings in use in an appropriate and complementary manner. Having considered the application we concluded that we offer the following observations.

As a wise gardener once said "a garden is never finished" and this is clearly the case with a great one such as at Crathes. The Burnetts and lately the NTS have taken great pains to nurture these grounds with care over centuries, and the present proposals show that this continues. The AHSS commends this. The current application backed up by exemplary commissioning of expert studies addresses the future care of one of quarters in the upper half, in recent times the *pleasure gardens*. Although resistivity studies cannot yet guide us about essentially horticultural matters, when taken with good observation and archival research they can be of great help. From these it appears that the major design for this part of the garden was made in ca 1846, and developed by Sybil Burnett from the '20s until her death. However the site of those works was removed in the early 1970s presumably to allow for needed refreshment of soils, and a new design scheme was established towards the centre of the quarter. The current proposals build on this design. The site of the historically more interesting part remains under grass. As a close watching brief is called for by the county archaeologist, we also encourage further investigation, whether archaeology, resistivity, or archival based to guide developments in future.

We would be grateful if the above points could be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Dr W. A. Brogden
Cases Panel Convener
AHSS North East Group