

HIGHLAND GALLERY AND MUSEUM

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

BRIEF SITE ASSESSMENT

BT telephone exchange – Friars' Lane. A key site, prominent at the edge of the city centre, but which is in full use and unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future.



Bught Park – adjacent to Archive Centre. Potentially attractive site on the banks of the River Ness in a parkland setting. Risk of flooding and remoteness to the city centre. Uncertainty over the position of the bridge crossing to the river restricts potential sites.



Carse industrial estate. Potential to regenerate the waterfront of the Caledonian Canal and Muirtown Basin. B&Q has vacated a key site on the estate. Commercial value of the site. Possible risk of flooding from basin.



Castle Street – west side. Prominent site in the city centre, close to the present site of the Inverness Museum & Gallery. Opportunity to restore damaged historic townscape qualities. High likelihood of encountering archaeology.



Cathedral car park site. Easily located from the city centre particularly if the riverside route were to be enhanced. However, it is heavily constrained by the existing mature trees on each boundary, and the site is too small to accommodate the building brief.



Glebe Street. The site appears to be large enough to support the building brief. Utilities running through the site may be a constraint and there is a risk of flooding. The site has been acquired for commercial development.



Hedgefield. Ample site size to accommodate development. Historic building would be a constraint for the intended use. Site may not be available, scheduled for residential development and would have commercial value.



Huntly Street – Carlton Bingo Hall site. There are potentially significant flooding risks but, more crucially, the site is considered to be too small to accommodate the building brief.



Inverness Castle. Elevated historic site at the heart of the city to which tourists are drawn naturally. Spaces are mainly small scale and inflexible, unsuited to gallery and museum use. The combined floor areas of the North and South towers are inadequate for the brief.



Longman – adjacent to Inverness Courier Building. The sites have a number of critical disadvantages, including the fact that they are landfill sites adjacent to a fuel storage depot over which the Health & Safety Executive imposes strict regulatory controls. In addition the remaining sites have been acquired for commercial development.



Midmills, Crown – Inverness College site. A historic building of distinction with fine interior spaces that appear well suited to the building brief. Possible access problems. The controlling constraint may turn out to be the timetable for the College leaving the site for new premises elsewhere.



Northern Meeting Park. Co-location with Eden Court Theatre would resurrect the possibility of a Cultural Quarter. Using the NMP for development of any kind could meet with public opposition. It might be claimed that this green space has limited public access. Historic Scotland have indicated an intention to confer 'B' listed status on the Pavilion building and walls.



Royal Mail sorting office – Farraline Park. Central, prominent location, close to public transport links. Site area appears to be capable of supporting the building brief. Royal Mail appears to have no intention of vacating the site.



UHI campus at Beechwood. An area of green space which will be occupied by the proposed campus. The out-of-town location is considered a disadvantage as is the timescale issue.

