

Urquhart Castle Visitor Centre, Handrails and Barriers

(For Derek Lovejoy Scotland)

Inverness

Urquhart Castle Visitor Centre is a new award winning visitor attraction on the banks of Loch Ness. The Original design competition aimed to create a major visitor facility complete with interpretation centre, restaurant, bookshop and lecture room. The challenge was to provide all of the above with minimal visual intrusion and environmental impact on this sensitive site.

The final solution was to create a building which would be almost totally covered with imported fill, topsoil and landscape planting with the rooftop parking sloping back into the slope, thus mitigating the total visual impact from the castle.

Visitors arrive at the site at car park level on top of the building, enter the rotunda and descend into the visitor centre before emerging, almost from within the landscape itself, to clear and spectacular views of the castle from terrace level.

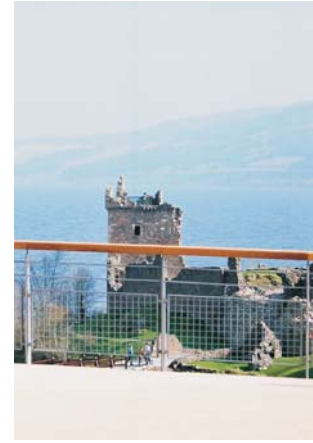
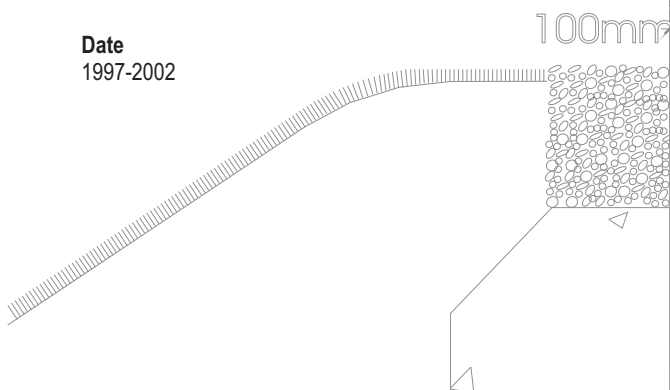
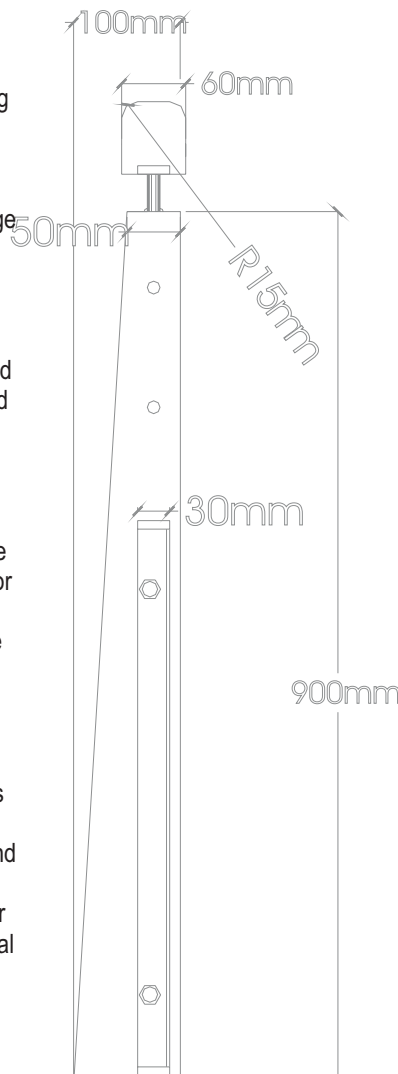
The long gently sloping pedestrian footpaths traverse the slopes of the re-modelled landscape providing access for all. To support pedestrian access, a series of pedestrian handrails and barriers were designed in part timber and part metal. The choice of materials and particularly the way the materials were treated, or not treated respectively, was carefully considered in order to maximise through visibility and to reduce their visual intrusion within the site.

Client

Historic Scotland

Date

1997-2002



1.



2.



3.



6.



5.



4.

- 1. Through visible terrace barrier
- 2. Hardwood timber handrail
- 3. Terrace stair and handrail
- 4. Main terrace entrance/exit
- 5. Timber handrails and barriers
- 6. Timber silvering to match site features

