

By email to: [planning@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:planning@edinburgh.gov.uk)

City of Edinburgh Council  
Planning Department  
Waverly Court  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**25/06329/FUL**

**Proposed placement of post and chain fencing, weighted mesh panels, and interpretation signs  
Land 325 Metres North of Grant House Pollock Halls of Residence 18 Holyrood Park Road**

Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with 16,000 members and is the only recognised representative body for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains and crags. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide training and information for safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.

Before the introduction of *The Holyrood Park Regulations 1971* (the Park Regulations), rock climbing took place along the full length of Salisbury Crags and on many other outcrops within Holyrood Park. From 1971, the Park Regulations prohibited climbing, except by permit within a small area known as South Quarry, at the southeastern end of Salisbury Crags. This remained the case up until the sudden closure of the Radical Road in 2018, when the erection of barriers blocked access to the Quarry.

This proposal could allow climbers to access South Quarry again, which we welcome. We have therefore chosen not to submit an objection. However, some aspects of the applicant's proposals give us cause for concern.

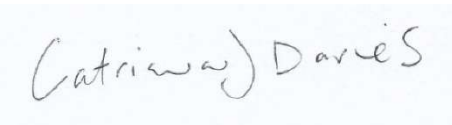
1. The site plans appear to indicate there will be gaps in the post and chain fencing, which will allow climbers to access the rock faces of South Quarry. In addition, the post and chain fences will be low enough to step over. However, there is no mention of climbing or access for climbers anywhere in the application despite this being discussed at length with Historic Environment Scotland staff. Indeed, the Design and Access Statement advises that one of the design intents is *“to avoid ‘desire line’ tracks that lead in and out of areas where rockfall may be considered as more likely”*. These are the areas that climbers, with the skills and experience to identify, assess and accept the risks, will chose to enter.

Mountaineering Scotland seeks assurance that the proposed structures and signage will not be used to continue to prevent or discourage climbers from using the area of South Quarry, as permitted by the Park Regulations, and requests that any planning permission granted includes a condition that ensures climbers will be allowed to access South Quarry for climbing.

2. In the application form the applicant has responded in the negative to the question *“Are you proposing any change to public paths, public rights of way or affecting any public right of access?”*. This is incorrect, as the applicant is very well aware. Indeed, I note the plan of the proposed access road (*\_09\_\_PROPOSED\_ACCESS\_PLAN-6981448*) has the full length of the Radical Road marked as a public path. I can only assume the applicant seeks to avoid addressing the wider implications of their proposal on public rights of access. We therefore request it is made a condition of any planning permission granted that the applicant prepare and submit a full assessment of the impact of their proposals on public access, and a plan, with a clear timeline, for reopening the full length of the Radical Road.
3. The Design and Access Statement implies that the proposed weighted mesh panels are a temporary measure, *“necessary whilst further measures are considered for managed access to the remainder of the Radical Road”*, but in the application form the applicant has indicated they are not seeking temporary permission. If the proposed structures are indeed intended to be temporary, only temporary planning permission should be sought and granted.
4. I note no planning permission has been sought for the existing barriers, which were erected without any consultation. The current proposal includes the removal of the existing barriers at the southeastern end of the Radical Road, but no mention is made of the corresponding barriers at its northern end.
5. Given the impact the impact of these proposals on access for both walkers and climbers, this application should be referred to the staff member responsible for meeting the City of Edinburgh Council’s statutory obligations under Section 13 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and to the Local Access Forum or equivalent for their consideration.

I trust these comments are useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catriona Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

**Catriona Davies**  
**Access & Environment Officer**  
**Mountaineering Scotland**

Email: [access@mountaineering.scot](mailto:access@mountaineering.scot)

