



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Centre

Old & New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site



Decisions that potentially impact upon World Heritage Site status

World Heritage UK
8 March 2017

Jenny Bruce, World Heritage Site Co-ordinator

Decisions that potentially impact upon World Heritage Site status

- **The role of the State Party**
- **Which Government Departments do what?**
- **Who advises the World Heritage Committee?**

Case Study: former Royal High School

- **The role of ICOMOS**
- **How is the decision for Reactive Monitoring made?**
- **What is the process for Reactive Monitoring?**

Case study: the former Royal High School, Calton Hill

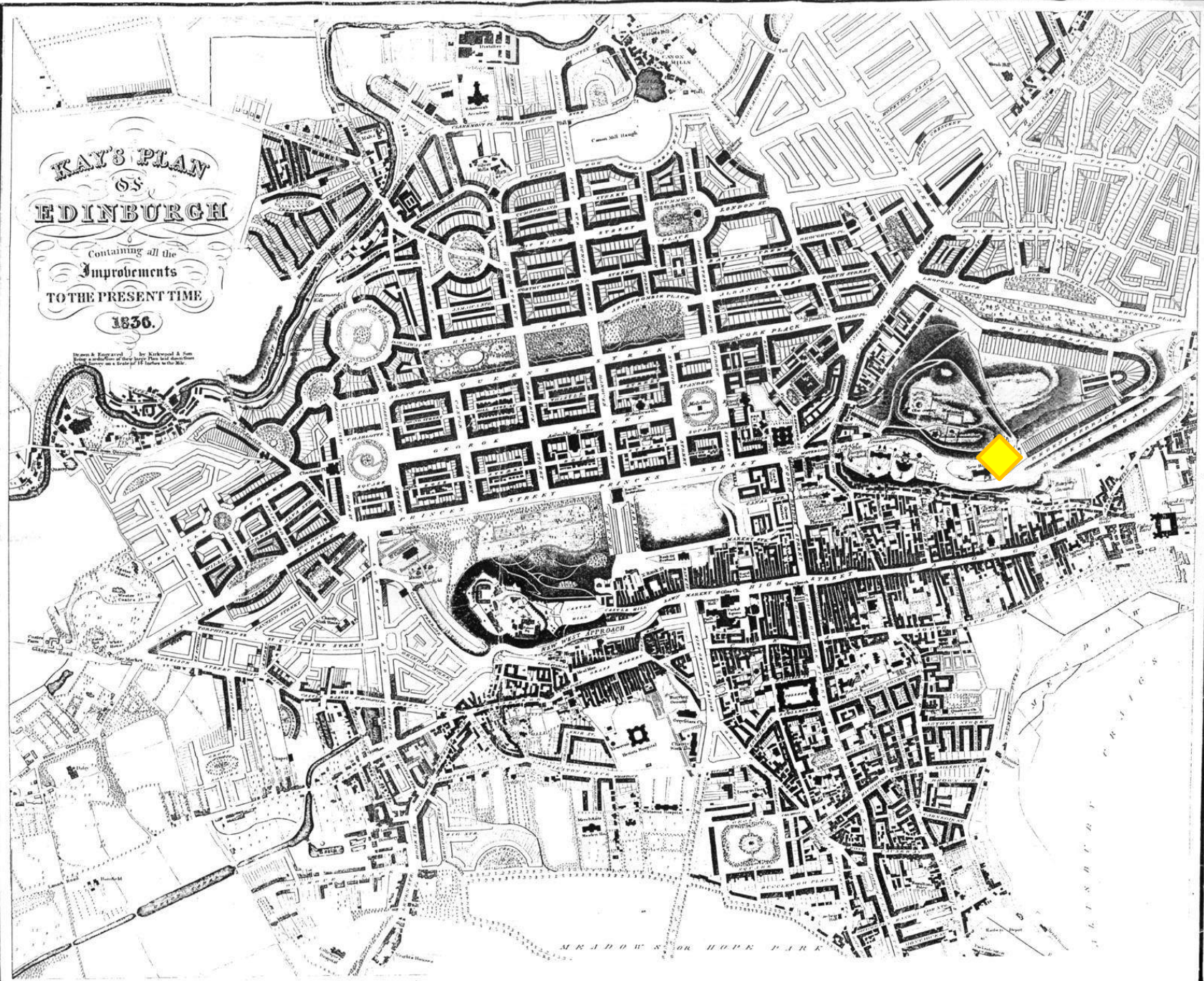


KAY'S PLAN OF EDINBURGH

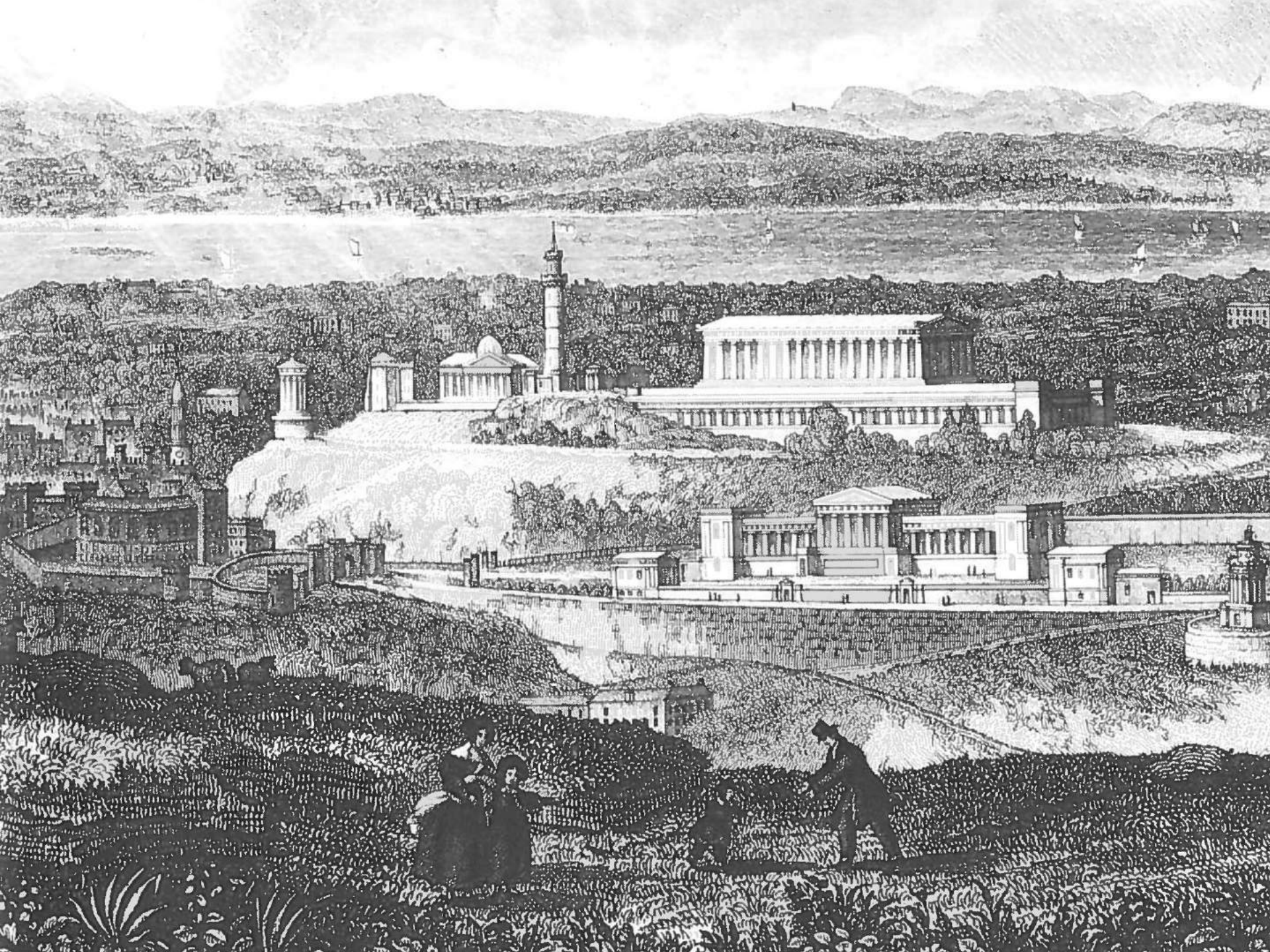
Containing all the
Improvements
TO THE PRESENT TIME

1850.

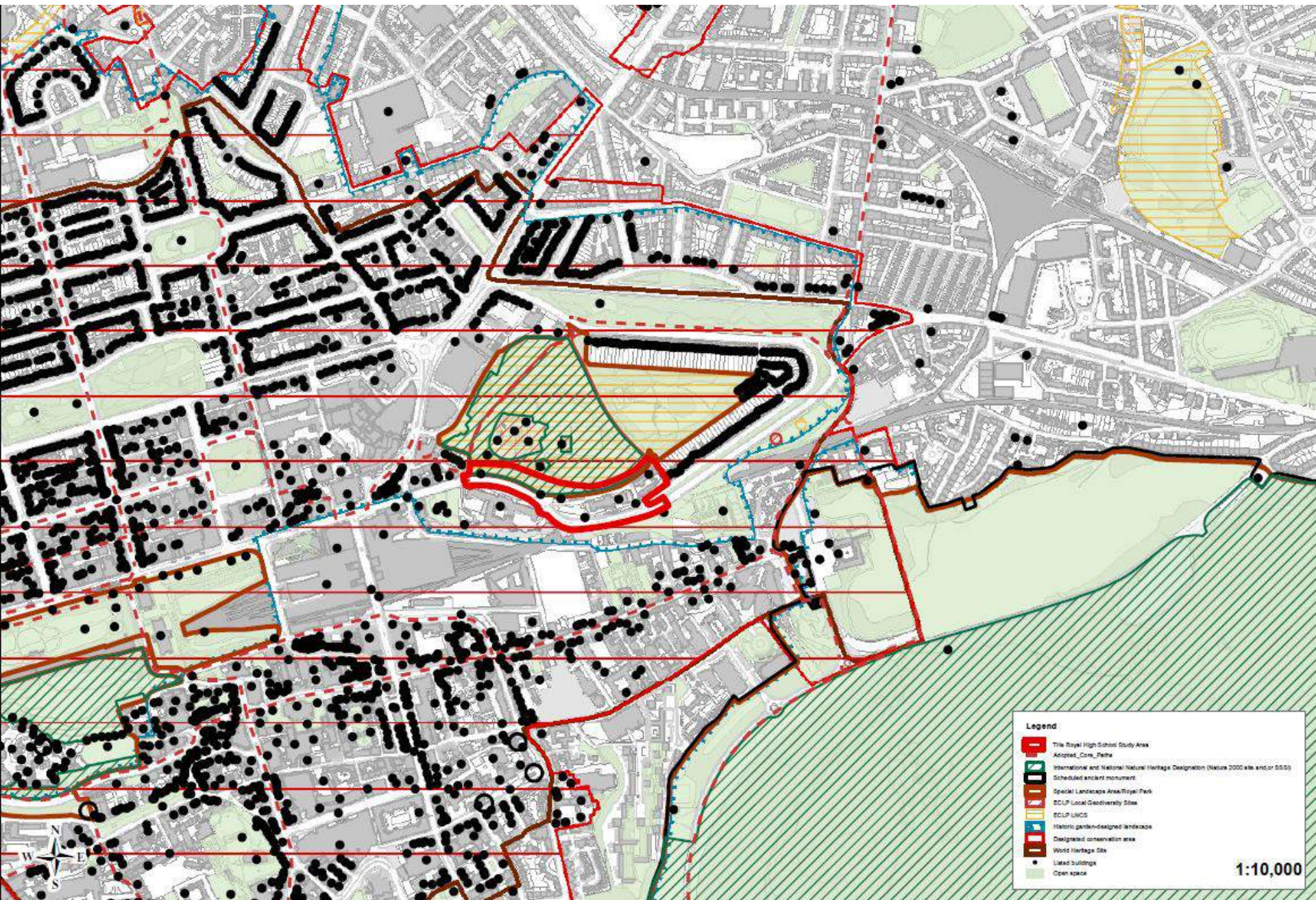
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Old Royal High School

KEY VIEW

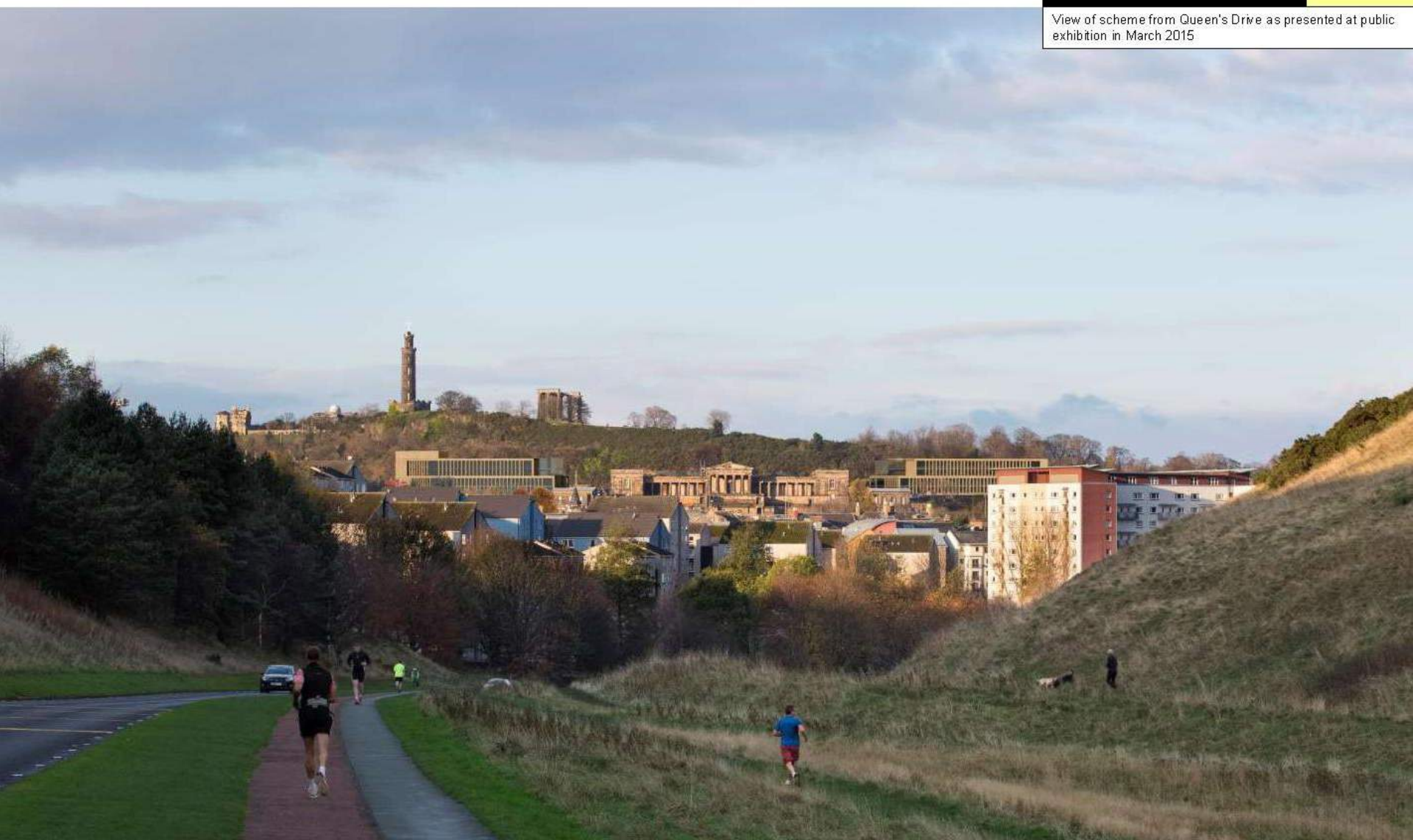
View of scheme from Salisbury Crags as presented at public exhibition in March 2015



Old Royal High School

KEY VIEW

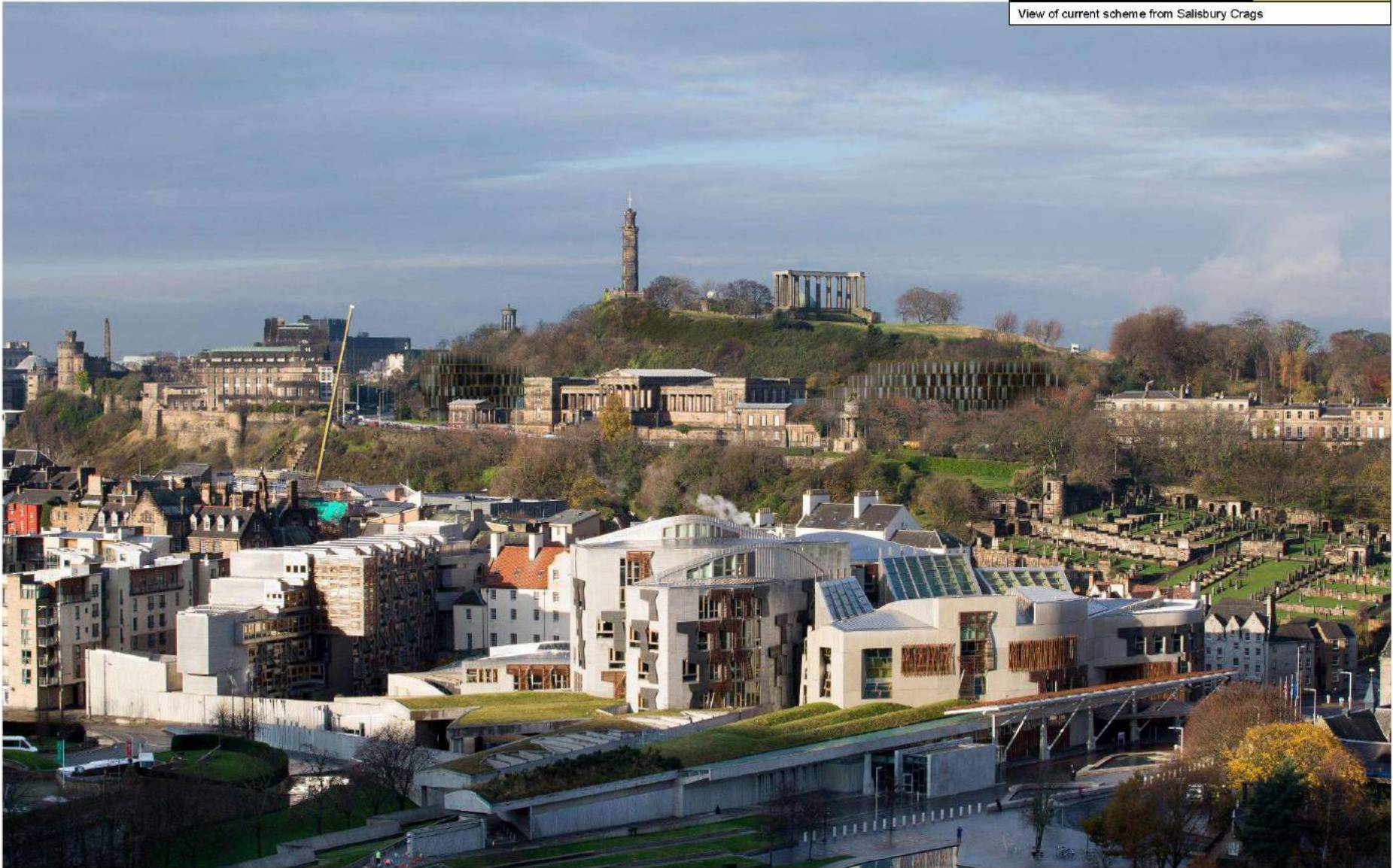
View of scheme from Queen's Drive as presented at public exhibition in March 2015



Old Royal High School

KEY VIEW

View of current scheme from Salisbury Crags



Old Royal High School

KEY VIEW

View of current scheme from Queen's Drive



Timeline of events

End 2014/
Early 2015:
Developer's
Public
Presentation

January
2015:
PAN

Jan – Dec
2015:
Application
Assessment

**Statutory
process**



February
2015:
Public
Meeting

October
2015:
ICOMOS UK
Objection
letter

October
2015:
ICOMOS UK
exploratory
visit

**ICOMOS
involvement**

Timeline of events

December
2015
Planning
Committee
Hearing

January
2016
Decision
Issued

March 2016
Appeal on
Decision made to
Scottish Ministers

**Statutory
process**



November
2015:
ICOMOS UK
report

February
2016:
UNESCO
letter (from
WH Centre)

**ICOMOS
involvement**

Press coverage

Edinburgh Evening News
16 October 2015



IT was with breathtaking arrogance that Unesco's masonically-appointed world heritage guardian James Simpson declared there was no need to identify the inspectors coming to see if Edinburgh was looking after itself properly.

“ Secrecy surrounding Icomos’ fact-finding visit to the Capital threatens the credibility of the World Heritage status it seeks to defend “

Press coverage

Edinburgh council reject plans for old
Royal High school hotel

theguardian
website of the year

THE  TIMES

**Don't treat Edinburgh like
Dubai, Unesco chief tells
planners**



Thoughts...

- **What is the experience from other UK sites where UNESCO and ICOMOS are involved in the planning process?**
- **Does this work?**
- **Is there a better/ different way?**