

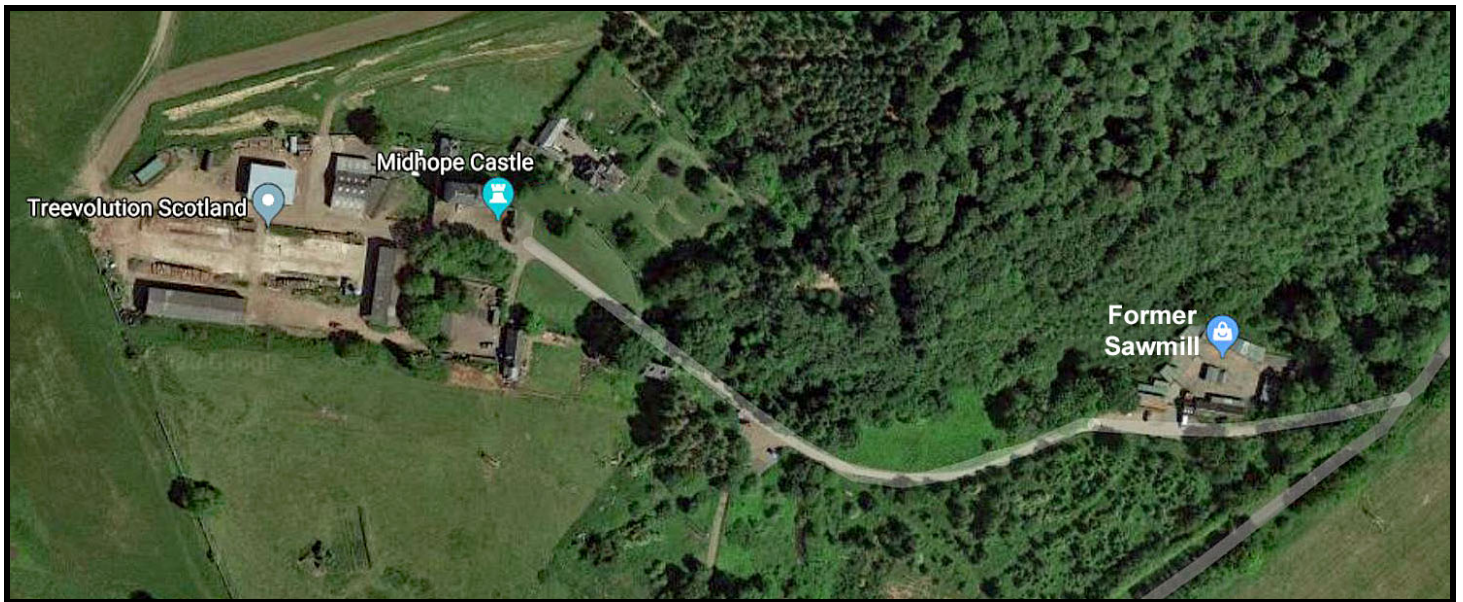


Midhope Castle  
(Site #38)  
Development  
Statement  
February 9th, 2020

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# Proposal to Build a Distillery, Ancillary Tasting Room, Visitor Accommodation, Office Accommodation, Storage, and Car Parking at Midhope Castle



**Caitriona B. Heughan** @CaitMBHeughan

Somebody had a brilliant idea and I hope it is @SamHeughan or @SPTV @Sony @STARZ @SonyPicsAtHome @Outlander\_STARZ. The income would probably be enough to finance at least twenty episodes per book so that the whole story by Dr. Diana Gabaldon gets adapted! [planning.westlothian.gov.uk/publicaccess/a...](http://planning.westlothian.gov.uk/publicaccess/a...)



On Jan 20th of 2020, @CaitMBHeughan tweeted a notice about plans being proposed to build a distillery and visitor attraction/accommodation at Midhope Castle. We investigated and found a contact person to whom we sent our questions—and concerns—about the project.

The spokesperson for the project has been very responsive and kind. What follows is the reply we received and have been given permission to share.

## Statement

From before the start of this project, we have all been aware of the interest in Midhope generated by the “Outlander” television series and we have kept that interest in our thinking; so your concerns are fully understood and as we progress, I am confident that we will maintain a constructive and positive dialogue with the “Outlander” community on this subject.

Right at the start, I think there are a couple of obvious points that may immediately help.

Firstly—and you will be aware of this—Midhope Castle is a Grade A listed property and as such, benefits from a significant level of protection from the relevant authorities. Although the property is in private ownership, its protection is overseen and regulated by West Lothian Council (WLC) and also Historic Environment Scotland (HES). HES is the lead public body charged with the care of Scotland’s historic environment. I have included links to WLC and HES and their policy on listed properties below.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/33134/Listed-buildings>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/>

With regard to Midhope, we have already been in contact with WLC and HES and the site has been visited by both senior officials and building conservancy specialists from the two bodies. As we move through the development, we will ensure that WLC and HES are fully engaged with the process. This will ensure that Midhope receives the appropriate level of protection and care during the planned restoration work.

Secondly, our intention in this project is to restore Midhope and return it to a useful purpose and thereby to improve the property. Nothing will be done—or indeed could be done—to Midhope Castle to change significantly its external structure and therefore the profile and look of the building will be as it is now—except, I would suggest—greatly improved.

For “Outlander” enthusiasts, the current aspect will remain. The distillery will sit beyond the castle and will not impinge on the view that visitors currently enjoy.

I should stress that this entire project—given its location and the relationship with Hopetoun Estate—will be delivered to the highest levels of quality, particularly in its architectural quality and its overall aesthetics. We are fully aware of the history and heritage of the Estate and its surroundings and we are working with a committed and expert team who all understand the very special nature of what we are trying to deliver at Midhope.

At this stage we have not published or circulated any detailed information or visuals to any of our stakeholders. That will be done in due course but we are still at a relatively early stage as we move into the formal planning process.

When we are ready to provide such materials I will ensure that you have access to them.

I hope this is helpful and while I cannot answer all your immediate questions, please be assured that I will do my best to ensure that you are kept up to date as we progress with the project.