

Use of RCAHMS Imagery on Facebook

Given the amount of discussion generated by the 'Lost Edinburgh' Facebook page, we feel it's important to explain our position with regard to the use of our images and the role of our organisation.

- Our archive holds over 18 million items relating to both Scotland and other locations throughout the world.
- The imagery we hold comes from a wide variety of sources and we endeavour to make this material as widely available as possible, through everything from our websites and search room, to exhibitions and books.
- In the case of our imagery, we have a legal duty to enforce and protect copyright law.
- The millions of items in our archive that are ©RCAHMS are available to anyone to use, subject to a licence and potentially a fee.
- In the case of the 'Lost Edinburgh' Facebook page, the overriding issue is that Facebook's own terms and conditions for the posting of images prevent us from posting ©RCAHMS images.
- We couldn't give the creators of the 'Lost Edinburgh' page the permission to post images on Facebook, and we cannot post them ourselves – to do so would mean granting Facebook a licence to use our images in perpetuity.
- The sharing aspect of Facebook – which is one of the key factors of the site's functionality and popularity – currently requires granting a licence in perpetuity, which means there is no way to control or manage the spread and use of posted images.
- Granting a licence in perpetuity to Facebook means granting usage rights for images which exceed the terms of any licence we are permitted to issue as holders of copyright in trust.
- All other archives, museums and galleries that hold imagery in trust are in the same position when it comes to posting and sharing material on Facebook.

We have, however, recently developed our own database Canmore to allow the public to share their images and comments with our National Collection. To date, over 14,000 public images have been added to our online database, and can they be viewed alongside our own images, and expert information on buildings and monuments at canmore.rcahms.gov.uk

We are continually looking at ways to update our web interface – and how we can collaborate with external sites – to make it easier for the public to get involved with talking about and sharing imagery on Scotland's fascinating built environment.

For more detailed information on copyright and licensing of our imagery go to:

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/buy-images-and-data.html>

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/copyright-and-licence.html>

And to see Facebook's terms and conditions, go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/terms.php>