



# Media Release

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## **KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE – ROCK SOLID**

KNARESBOROUGH Castle has been standing on its stunning and spectacular site for more than 800 years. And to make sure that it remains standing there for a very long time to come, Harrogate Borough Council will be carrying out its latest round of highly specialist maintenance work starting on Monday, 24 January.

A recent survey revealed soil movement within the rock and soil, which support the Castle site in Knaresborough. This naturally occurring damage requires specialist attention to make sure that the rock face and soil slopes along Waterside are stable.

English Heritage, under the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent Scheme, has agreed this essential maintenance work and Harrogate Borough Council has appointed CAN Geotechnical Limited to manage this specialist project. It is expected to take three to four weeks to complete but this type of work can be affected by poor weather conditions so dates may change a little if poor weather makes it dangerous.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: “Knaresborough’s Castle is a tourist treasure among many tourist destinations in our country. So we apologise for any inconvenience that these works will cause for both residents and visitors. But we hope that everyone will realise these works are essential to protect the fabric of the Castle and indeed the cliff face.”

CAN Geotechnical will be using state-of-the-art equipment as they abseil down the cliff to use rock anchors, rock bolts, soil nails and rock fall netting to secure the site and stabilise the slope at the Castle headland.

“This company is highly respected in their field of expertise and have worked on a range of important historic sites including Edinburgh Castle”, added Councillor Jones. “The CAN team has kindly agreed to provide a talk for members of the public at the site sometime during the works. Once we have a date, we will publicise it in the town and the local press. I do hope interested people will come along to learn a little more about the history of the foundations of this fabulous Castle and a bit more detail of the work which is being undertaken.”

For health and safety reasons, the general public will be excluded from the work area at the top of the cliff face from when works commence on site until completion. Waterside will be closed to vehicular traffic from The Riverside Café to 10m away from the Castle Mills buildings. There will be pedestrian access to the Waterside and high quality crash decking will protect the area. ENDS

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services on - 01423 872466. Further technical information is available from Mr Mark Wilson, Senior Building Surveyor on 01423 556661. For historical information on the site, please contact Ceryl Evans, Head of Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.**