

Case information

Reference/Case ID		201506791	
Scheduled Monument	Caledonian Canal, Neptune's Staircase, canal locks, Banavie		
Index no	M3530	Grid Ref	NN112768 211200.0000 776800.0000
Date of Application	28 January 2016	Application Received	28 January 2016
Summary of proposed works	The upgrade of the existing towpath at the Neptune's Staircase, canal locks, Banavie.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the upgrade of the existing towpath at the Neptune's Staircase, canal locks, Banavie.

2. Background

The Caledonian Canal which was designed by Thomas Telford and built between 1803 and 1822. It was then and remains today, the single largest construction work in the Highlands.

There was no pre-application engagement. However, previous similar proposals have been submitted and consented in the recent past and are part of a Sustrans-funded scheme to improve the surface for walkers and cyclists.

3. Proposals

The works comprise the upgrade of the existing towpath with 80 mm of compacted graded rock aggregate (Type 1) and 15 mm thick topping of 10 mm to dust. This involves the removal of potholes, followed by the addition of the rock and dust material. It also includes an intercept drainage channel.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be viewed with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

3.16. Works on scheduled monuments should therefore normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

3.20. Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

b) Assessment

The monument is a working, industrial canal and the proposed upgrade to the existing towpath is not considered to have a significant impact on its cultural significance. The proposed works will involve the addition of rock and dust material to the surface of the existing towpath, and an intercept drainage channel.

c) Other material considerations, including impact of the works on Protected Species and Places

There will not be an impact on Protected Species and Places.

The proposed works will have an added on wider public benefit as they will facilitate outdoor access to the canal. Facilitating access to heritage assets such as the canal is also a key part in Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works are compliant with Section 3.16 of the SHEP in that they are the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. They have also been carefully considered and are therefore compliant with 3.20 of SHEP. Therefore, given the nature of the monument and the minimal level of anticipated impact, they are considered to be acceptable in policy terms. As there are no proposals to provide HES with a photographic record of the works however, a related condition has therefore been recommended.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I therefore recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

2. Two weeks after completion of the works, the applicant will provide photographs of the affected areas, before, during and after the work, to Historic Environment Scotland.

Reason: To ensure that an accurate record of works to the monument is maintained.

8. Approval

Officer	Nicola Hall	Date	10/02/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	12/2/16

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Location plan (Drawing A01015/01)

Drainage Plan (Drawing A01015-02)

Drainage Plan (Drawing A01015/02)