



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018600		
Scheduled Monument	Crinan Canal, Crinan to Cairnbaan		
Index no	SM6500	Grid ref	NR 78800 94400
Date application validated	17 October 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Bellanoch Bridge - Removal and replacement of two tool sheds and unsafe steps		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for replacement of a tool shed, relocation and rebuilding of a stretch of stone boundary wall be granted.

2. Background

The monument is a stretch of the Crinan Canal running from the sea-lock at Crinan eastward to the summit reach. The canal was designed by an eminent Scots engineer John Rennie, and built between 1794 and 1809 as a ship canal linking the sea lochs Crinan and Gilp. This allowed ships to avoid a treacherous journey around the Mull of Kintyre.

The scheduled area includes the canal itself together with the towpath and a narrow strip of ground to either side. It also includes related canal structures such as bridges and locks. It excludes all modern canal buildings.

The monument is of national importance because it represents a significant feat of Georgian engineering. The canal has survived as a working waterway for almost two centuries and in that time has seen only minor changes.

The proposed work includes the removal of two timber tool sheds (and the steps associated with one) because they are rotten. These are modern canal buildings, which are excluded from the scheduling. Therefore these aspects of the proposals do not require Scheduled Monument Consent.

It is proposed to replace one of the sheds with a slightly larger replacement, this would require the dismantling and repositioning of a stone boundary wall within the scheduled area. This element of the work requires consent. The application is designed to provide a sound replacement tool shed that facilitates the canal's management. It has been submitted by Scottish Canals.



3. Proposals

- The removal of two timber tool sheds (and the steps associated with one). These are modern canal buildings, which are excluded from the scheduling. This aspect of the proposal, therefore, does not require consent.
- The erection of new, larger shed on the site of one of the sheds to be removed.
- The dismantling and rebuilding of a stretch of freestanding stone boundary wall to create room for the new shed.

A rotten wooden tool shed is positioned at the southeast gable of a stone building to the southwest of Bellanoch Bridge on the north side of the canal. It would be replaced by a slightly larger wooden shed in the same location. This requires dismantling and replacement of part of an existing stone boundary wall that curves around the southeast side of the building. A stretch of several metres would be dismantled and reconstructed a short distance further southeast (estimated to be 1-2m).

The wall would be rebuilt in a 'like for like' manner reusing the stone and with bonding material to match existing.

Another rotten shed (and steps to it) to the northeast would be removed. This removal of the two sheds does not require consent.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

3.14. A monument is included in the schedule to secure the long-term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the state it has come down to us. Scheduled monuments have an intrinsic value as monuments, not related to any concept of active use. It is the value of the monument to the nation's heritage, in terms set out in the section on Scheduling in Chapter 2 of this policy



statement that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works would remove two wooden tool sheds, which have reached the end of their functional lives. This aspect of the proposal does not require consent as 'modern canal buildings' are excluded from the scheduling.

It is proposed to replace one of the sheds (that against the gable of a building) with a slightly larger version. This would require the dismantling of a short section of stone boundary wall around the building in order to create space for the new shed.

Historic mapping suggests that the building the shed would be constructed beside, and the stone boundary wall around it, were constructed in the 20th Century and are relatively modern additions to the canal. The stone boundary wall is not an integral part of the canal and does not make a substantive contribution to its significance.

The affected section of boundary wall would be rebuilt in a like-for like manner slightly further to the southeast. Once completed there would not be a noticeable effect on the character of the canal. Replacement of an existing shed with similar would also have no noticeable effect on the character of the canal.

The creation of the new section of wall would involve some excavations for foundations. Historic mapping suggests there is no potential for sensitive archaeological deposits at this location and the excavations are not likely to disturb any sensitive sub-surface remains.

The proposed works would therefore have no effect on the cultural significance of the monument. They would allow replacement of an existing tool shed and facilitate ongoing management of the canal.

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

The proposed works are in proximity to a SSSI and SAC; there is evidence for EPS in the vicinity. They have been subject to an ecological assessment undertaken by Scottish Canals. This recommended that excavations be covered if left overnight to prevent nocturnal animals falling into them. It predicted no impacts were likely on local fauna.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement.



The proposed works, comprising removal of two wooden tool sheds, replacement of one with similar, and repositioning of a stone boundary wall, would have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The proposed work would facilitate ongoing management of the canal. The proposals are sufficiently detailed that no conditions are necessary.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I recommend consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Simon Stronach	Date	21 October 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	28 October 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- 1) Pictures and plans showing position of new shed and wall.
- 2) Email from Scottish Canals regarding ecological assessment (20 October 2016)
- 3) Email from Scottish Canals regarding method of wall construction (20 October 2016)