

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201504541		
Scheduled Monument	Forth and Clyde Canal, Port Dundas canal basin, Glasgow		
Index no	M6689	Grid Ref	NS596667 259600.0000 666700.0000
Date of Application	19 October 2015	Application Received	21 October 2015
Summary of proposed works	Site clearance and site investigation works (rotary boreholes and trial pits/trenches)		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends the application be part granted with conditions.

2. Background

The Monument is part of the Forth and Clyde Canal and comprises the Port Dundas canal basin within the parish of Glasgow. It consists of a canal basin complex and a short stretch of canal, both now disused and cut off from the rest of the canal network. The canal basin, called Port Dundas, was opened in 1790 as an extension to the Glasgow Branch of the Forth and Clyde Canal. The area scheduled is irregular in shape, with maximum dimensions of 276m from its northernmost to southernmost points and 480m between its most easterly and westerly points.

The area of the scheduled monument affected by the proposed works is now disused and occupied by vegetation and parts of the surrounding canal waterways. The Historic Environment Assessment (Waterman 2015) suggests that some associated structures such as mooring posts and a crane base may still be visible.

The application has been discussed prior to submission. This included input from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) on the scope of archaeological mitigation required and on the nature of the proposed works. HES advised that clearance of trees and other vegetation according to the specified methodology did not require Scheduled Monument Consent. HES also advised that the application should not contain reference to the spreading of waste from three piles of material currently on the scheduled monument. This remains in the description of proposed works

(described as Areas 1, 2 and 3); however, the applicant has confirmed this is an oversight and they are not seeking consent for such work.

The principal aim of the proposed works is to provide information that will inform Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the site. Design parameters are stated to be the retention and enhancement of heritage as well as building in planned development areas and creating a focal point and social spaces.

3. Proposals

Consented works – Site Investigation works (rotary boreholes and trial pits/trenches)

As submitted the proposals include for:

- Site clearance of scrub, removal of saplings and above ground vegetation
- Geological ground investigation which will require a number of Rotary Boreholes up to 30m in depth and near surface trial pits up to 5m in depth as set out on the supplied Indicative Ground Investigation Layout and the Methodology for Site Clearance and Site Investigation Table 1.
- Areas 1, 2 and 3 identified on the topographical survey will also be spread and levelled as part of the site clearance works (*N.B. the applicant has confirmed that this proposed work should not form part of their application*).
- Attendance by an Archaeologist to observe and record findings in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

AMAAA 1979, Part 1 Section 2:
control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2011):

1.61. The historic environment has a key role to play in regeneration. Scottish Ministers want to build on past success and to see more regeneration projects that have a clear understanding of the cultural value of the historic environment, how it has developed over time, and how it can be used creatively to meet contemporary

needs.

3.4. Scheduled monument consent is required for any works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to the monument or to carry out any flooding or tipping on the monument. It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

3.14. Scottish Ministers include a monument 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 SHEP, 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.

3.18. Scheduled monument consent applications must be considered in terms of the cultural significance of the monument and the impact that the proposals would have upon this cultural significance. The more important particular features of the monument are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner.

b) Assessment

The area of the scheduled monument affected by the proposed work is mainly disused ('brownfield') ground within an urban setting. The proposals would involve the excavation of test pits and trial trenches under archaeological supervision and the sinking of rotary boreholes and cores to retrieve geological information.

The proposed site investigation works have the potential to cause damage to the monument. However, the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) states that all excavations will be monitored by an archaeologist and if any features of potential archaeological interest are revealed, excavation that might cause damage to the identified remains will be prevented. Exposed remains will be recorded and the results will be presented in a report. Hence, the proposed methodology would prevent damage to the fabric of the scheduled monument during excavations and provide further information on the sub-surface archaeological remains associated with the monument.

The rotary boreholes and cores may extend through fabric related to the scheduled monument, but the WSI states this will be restricted to the size of the borehole/core itself (stated in the Methodology to be no more than 300mm). This is considered to be the minimum intervention required in order to supply the information required. Given the nature of the monument (modern, industrial structures) and the scale of these interventions, they are not likely to have an appreciable impact on the cultural significance of the monument. The rotary boreholes are concluded to be immaterial with regard to this monument's cultural significance and therefore the proposed works are not inconsistent with SHEP 3.18.

The information obtained by the investigations will be used to inform development of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for regeneration of the area. In particular, the SPG will set parameters that will seek to retain and enhance the site's heritage alongside building in this planned development area and creating a focal point and social spaces. Therefore, it is assessed that the proposal is in accordance with SHEP 1.61 as it shows a clear understanding of the cultural value of the monument and should allow the monument's condition and presentation to be safeguarded and enhanced as part of any regeneration.

The proposals for Site Investigations can be assessed as being carefully considered, properly planned and contributing to the realisation of benefits for the monument.

As noted above, the proposals for clearance of vegetation in the application do not require Scheduled Monument Consent and should not be included in any consent. The applicant has made clear that the inclusion of the proposal to spread currently mounded material over the monument was in error and this should also not be included in any consent.

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

The application site does not lie in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area. National Biodiversity Network GIS data sets indicate no evidence for Protected Species in the relevant 100m grid squares.

d) Conclusion

The proposals for Site Investigation works include provision for archaeological monitoring, and for ensuring features of archaeological interest are not removed during trial pit excavation. This will mean damage to the fabric of the Scheduled Monument is avoided with the exception of small rotary boreholes and cores that will not harm the cultural significance of the monument. The works represent the minimum intervention needed in order to supply information that would allow guidance to be brought forward that would allow regeneration of the area while retaining and enhancing the monument's cultural significance.

Works related to clearance of vegetation do not require consent. Those related to the spreading of mounds of material included in the proposal are no longer being proposed by the applicant and should not be given consent.

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 recommend partial consent is **granted**, pertaining only to the Site Investigation works described. This should be **subject to the condition detailed below**.

7. Conditions

1. Reports detailing the results of the works (geotechnical and archaeological) and numbered copies of all archaeological photographs with a register describing what they depict, should be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland no longer than 16 weeks after site works are completed.

Reason: In order that an accurate record of the monument and works to it is maintained.

8. Approval

Officer	Simon Stronach	Date	11/12/2015
Approved by	John Raven	Date	14/12/2015

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation Works, Forth & Clyde Canal, Port Dundas Canal Basin, Glasgow (CFA Archaeology 2015).
- Indicative Ground Investigation Layout - Preliminary (Waterman 2015)
- Port Dundas, Glasgow Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Waterman 2015).
- Port Dundas Scheduled Monument Consent Application: Justification (Farrans 2015).
- Port Dundas Scheduled Monument Consent Application: Methodology for site clearance and site investigation methodology (Farrans 2015).
- Port Dundas Supplementary Guidance (progress at 27 July 2015: slides).
- Port Dundas SMC Application Programme