

## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201506794		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock - Muirtown Locks		
<b>Index no</b>	M6499	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NH619404 261900.0000 840400.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	28 January 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	28 January 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Upgrade of 200m of the north canal towpath east of Dochgarroch Lock.		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends approval for the upgrade of 200m of the north canal towpath east of Dochgarroch Lock.

### 2. Background

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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 of the canal for walkers and cyclists. In addition, previous surfacing of the existing towpath with bitumen macadam was undertaken in in 2008.

### 3. Proposals

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The proposed works comprise the surfacing of the existing towpath with bitumen macadem.

### 4. Representations received

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No representations were received.

### 5. Report

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#### 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 bitchumen macadem material to the surface of the existing towpath.

**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**

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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**

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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

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Nicola Hall</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>10/02/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>John Raven</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>16/2/16</b>

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

Location plan (Drawing A00969/01)