

Case information

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reference/Case ID | 201507725 | | |
| Scheduled Monument | Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness - Dochgarroch Lock | | |
| Index no | M6498 | Grid Ref | NH601376 260100.0000 837600.0000 |
| Date of Application | 08 March 2016 | Application Received | 08 March 2016 |
| Summary of proposed works | The installation of a pontoon at Dochgarroch | | |

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted for the installation of a pontoon at Dochgarroch.

2. Background

The canal was designed by Thomas Telford and built between 1803 and 1822. It was for a time the world's largest canal. It is of national importance because it is a superb example of 19th century civil engineering. The proposed pontoon would be located on the Loch Ness - Dochgarroch Lock section of the canal.

3. Proposals

The proposed works comprise the installation of a new 54m pontoon which would be situated between existing pontoons/jetties. The removal of some existing structures - a small wooden jetty and some concrete blocks - will be required in order to facilitate the installation of the new pontoon. We have not had any pre-application discussions with the applicant about the proposal.

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:

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2011):

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.

b) Assessment

The Caledonian Canal is an industrial, working monument. It is subject to change and its continued use is of one of the best way of helping to safeguard it. The proposed new pontoon is to replace one that was there previously, and the existing concrete blocks are not fit for purpose for the new pontoon.

The proposal will have a minimal impact on the historic fabric of the canal. Although the proposal will necessitate the removal of the existing wooden jetty and some concrete blocks, these are relatively recent additions having been installed circa 1990. The OS 1st Ed Map (1876) suggests that the canal bank was a simple earthen

embankment with no walls or canal side furniture. There was a boatyard adjacent to the lock to the north, but any putative buried remains associated with this building would not be disturbed by the addition of the anchor blocks proposed in this application as they are positioned further south. In addition, the canal bank has been heavily disturbed over its lifetime with the installation of anchor blocks, pontoons and jetties.

The addition of the pontoon will also have a minimal impact on the canal's setting. While this is fairly rural in nature, the new pontoon will be located adjacent to existing pontoons/jetties and it will not hinder the understanding and appreciation of the canal bank. Furthermore, the pontoon is replacing a structure that was there previously.

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

None.

d) Conclusion

It is concluded that given the nature of the monument and the minimal level of anticipated impact on its cultural significance, the proposed works are considered to be acceptable in policy terms. Specifically, 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 are also reversible and are therefore compliant with 3.20 of SHEP.

However, as there are no proposals to provide HES with a photographic record of the works, a related condition has 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 recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. 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 | 26/04/2016 |
| Approved by | John Raven | Date | 26/04/2016 |

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Proposed new pontoon at Dochgarroch
Photographs of existing concrete mooring ring blocks