

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201507853		
Scheduled Monument	Forth and Clyde Canal: Old Kilpatrick - Linnvale		
Index no	M6778	Grid Ref	NS454733 245400.0000 673300.0000
Date of Application	14 March 2016	Application Received	14 March 2016
Summary of proposed works	Ground investigation and directional drilling under the Forth and Clyde Canal to accommodate a high pressure gas pipeline.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval of a proposed ground investigation to assess feasibility of diverting Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) high pressure pipeline below the canal.

2. Background

The particular stretch of canal affected leads eastwards from Old Kilpatrick under the Erskine Road Bridge. It was part of a scheme to extend the canal westward from its original western terminus at Stockingfield, in Glasgow. The embankments and towpath area substantially resemble those appearing on historic mapping, and inspection of the fabric demonstrates it to be largely original in nature. This historic form significantly contributes to the cultural significance of this part of the monument.

No pre-application discussions have taken place. However, post-application discussion with the applicant has elicited more information on the likely implications for the proposed work.

There are no recent applications for planning permission or Scheduled Monument Consent for this part of the canal.

3. Proposals

The works are proposed in two stages, both of which are the subject of this application:

Stage 1: Ground investigation - SGN plan to carry out ground investigations to assess the feasibility of diverting a high pressure gas pipeline from the Erskine Bridge, under the River Clyde. Stage 1 includes a total of 12 boreholes (option for 2 more) and topographical survey of the area. This work does not require Scheduled Monument Consent, as the borehole BH07 (while on Scottish Canals' property) is outwith the scheduled area. The other boreholes are more than 100m from the scheduled area.

Stage 2: Should the ground investigations demonstrate the viability of the plan, SGN propose to install a new high pressure gas pipeline below the River Clyde via trenchless installation techniques. This would involve directional drilling from both banks of the Clyde.

4. Representations received

No direct representations were received. Scottish Canals have agreed in principle to the works, subject to a grant of Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Environment Scotland.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- Part 1 Section 2 - Control of works affecting an ancient monument. This is what you will have used to decide if SMC is required for the works described.
- Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy

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.

b) Assessment

1. The impact of the proposed works

The borehole BH07 will have no impact on the scheduled monument, as it is outwith the scheduled area and no vehicles will access the scheduled area.

The directionally-drilled pipeline would be undertaken from several points on both banks of the Clyde, including from the proposed location of BH07, 40m N of the scheduled area. This location would be accessed from the adjacent public road rather than the canal towpath, and no vehicles would traverse the scheduled area during drilling.

The directionally-drilled pipeline would cross the canal at a perpendicular angle, and be no less than 16.77m below the base of the canal. While the final geology in the area under the canal needs to be established through the Stage 1 works, previous investigations for the piers of the Erskine Bridge (one of which is within 10m of the canal) established that much of the material at that depth is boulder clay. The applicant has provided an assessment that there would be no risk of undermining the canal at this point, due to the relatively slight nature of the drilling channel, and the relative resilience of the material between the channel and the canal. This assessment has also been approved by Scottish Canals.

2. The impact on the cultural significance of the monument

There would be no impact on the cultural significance of the monument through the borehole work.

The pipeline work obviously has some potential to undermine the canal, which could significantly impact on the historic form of the canal and entail extensive repairs which would further compromise this historic form. However, the existing geotechnical investigations for the Erskine Road Bridge pier that is 10m from this part of the canal demonstrated that the underlying boulder clay is resilient. It should also be noted that the bridge pier has seen no damage to this part of the canal, despite it carrying a very significant vertical load through the boulder clay. Finally, the geotechnical assessment that there is no risk of undermining the canal through these works supports the assertion that there would be no impact on the canal fabric. On that basis, no obvious impact on the cultural significance of the monument from these works can be identified.

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

None.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works would not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the scheduled monument, as the borehole is outwith the scheduled area, and the underlying geology would mean that the pipeline work carries no obvious risk of undermining of the canal. Therefore, the proposed works appear to be consistent with the principle of being the minimum necessary to conserve the cultural significance of the monument (as per SHEP 3.16, cited above).

No timescale is presently available for either the initial geotechnical investigations or the directional drilling work. It might be considered that a condition directing notification to HES of a works timescale could be reasonable. However, the issue here is that inspection of the works would not elicit useful or relevant information to monitoring this consent, as no visual change is predicted to the scheduled area. As the canal is monitored by Scottish Canals, any alteration to its form would also be made promptly known to us by its third party works manager. Therefore, a monitoring/notification condition would not be necessary or relevant to the proposal, and therefore not a reasonable imposition.

On that basis, it is recommended that no conditions are attached to a grant of consent.

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

n/a

8. Approval

Officer	John Malcolm	Date	04/05/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	04/05/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Overview of proposed Site Investigation Locations and Conceptual HDD Crossings – Document no. 20140401RA-C/01/C
Section Views showing proposed Ground Investigation Borehole Positions & Conceptual HDD Crossings – Document no. 20140401RA-C/02/C