



Case information

Reference/Case ID	201601019		
Scheduled Monument	Forth and Clyde Canal: Glasgow Branch		
Index no	M6771	Grid Ref	NS571689 257100.0000 668900.0000
Date of Application	25 May 2016	Application Received	25 May 2016
Summary of proposed works	Installation of temporary pontoon and access ramp for an art exhibition		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval without conditions for the above works.

2. Background

The site of the proposed works is adjacent to the Scottish Canals headquarters at Applecross Street, immediately to the east of the Applecross Basin. This basin was formerly the terminus of the Glasgow Branch of the Forth & Clyde Canal, and the branch was extended in 1791 from this basin towards Port Dundas. Available map evidence shows that this particular part of the canal has not seen significant change in the interim, and it is likely that the fabric of the canal wall is largely original: no obvious repairs are visible in the masonry. Immediately to the south of this part of the canal lies the unscheduled remains of the former Bairds Brewery, which was constructed shortly after 1791.

There were no pre-application discussions. Additional information was sought and received from the applicant.

No planning permissions are required for the proposed works. No consented works have taken place in the canal channel since at least 2009. However, consent was granted in early 2016 for public realm works immediately adjacent to this site (201506926), which involved the construction of a new cycle path leading south from Applecross, and which involved partial removal of a grassy knoll beside the canal.

3. Proposals

Overview

The Bairds Brae/Applecross/Speirs Wharf area has been identified as an arts hub in the Glasgow Local Development Plan, and Scottish Canals has worked with a variety of stakeholders on promoting the area to arts organisations.

As part of Scottish Canals' work with three of these groups (BAXENDALE, A Feral Studio, and Oasis Social Club), it is proposed to erect a temporary pontoon for a period of 3 months on the south bank at the eastern end of Applecross Basin. This would serve as a link between the canal and the adjacent (unscheduled) Bairds Brewery site. The brewery site is the location of a temporary artistic space known as the Test Unit, where a variety of conceptual artists are carrying out exhibitions and summer schools. Glasgow Sculpture Studios (who are based at The Whisky Bond beside Applecross) will take over the experimental space and the pontoon later in the period of use, and exhibit its own material at the Test Unit. The pontoon will also form part of the Test Unit exhibition space and will help animate the visitor experience by giving them an opportunity to view and experience the canal from the waterside. Essentially, the pontoon is proposed both to tie in the canal with the brewery space, to provide a space for participants in the summer schools and exhibitions to easily access the canalside, and to advertise the presence of the Test Unit activities to passersby.

The pontoon would be of a three-float type measuring 12m long by 2m deep, which is of a lighter nature than the Scottish Canals standard permanent pontoon. It would be mounted onto steel fixings drilled into mortar joints in the canal wall, and would be accessed by a temporary access ramp from the towpath. Once the temporary use had expired at the end of the three months period, the pontoon would be removed and the fixings taken out of the mortar joints. The mortar would be repointed and repaired.

The applicant has argued that a waterside exhibition pontoon would add further interest and animation to an already lively arts hub in North Glasgow, the public benefits of which outweigh the minor physical impact on the scheduled monument.

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:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)

- 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)

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

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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.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement

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.

3.16. 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

Impacts on cultural significance

The cultural significance of the Applecross Basin area lies in the fact that it resembles its original form as the former terminus of the Glasgow Branch, and that the particular section affected has not changed greatly in terms of construction or form since 1791. Views along the canal channel are also important, as they allow an understanding of the relationship between the basin and the adjacent canal workshops, which are contemporary with the basin and the canal walling.

The direct impact of the pontoon would be limited to that from the fixings into the mortar joints. It is very unlikely that the mortar in these joints is original, as the canal walls were regularly maintained while there were in infrastructural use, and the canal also saw extensive repairs as part of the Millennium Link project which restored it in 2002. The potential loss of modern mortar would not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the monument.

The pontoon and its access ramp would be clearly visible in views along the canal, and would appear in the foreground of some views towards the workshops from the canalside. However, these features would be of a relatively small nature in what is a quite open vista, and the pontoon would sit on the waterline (and thus below most sightlines). While it would detract slightly from appreciation of some views, this impact would not be significant. The proposed works are likely to have a very slight adverse impact on the monument. The temporary nature of the works has not been considered further in this case, as an adverse impact must be assessed against policy in its own right.

Public benefit of the proposal

The pontoon would allow the Test Unit space to be expanded to incorporate the canalside, and to create a clear link between the activities on the former brewery site and the canal channel. This does have some potential to heighten participants' and

visitors' appreciation of the relationship between the two, and should be considered to be a mild public benefit. In addition, many of the individual elements in the arts hub at Applecross/Speirs Wharf do not focus on the canalside and are located in buildings set away from the canal. By contrast, the pontoon and the adjacent space would be beside the canal and highly accessible to visitors, and potentially draw people towards exploring the canal. On balance, there would be a mild public benefit from the proposed works.

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

No Protected Species or Places have been identified at the site of the proposed works. While Great Crested Newts have been located within the 10km grid square surrounding the site, they have not been located within the equivalent 2km grid square.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works would have a very slight adverse impact on the cultural significance of the monument, and are therefore consistent with Policy Statement 3.16 as outlined above. The proposed works are also reversible in such a way that there would be no lasting impact on the monument beyond the intended three month duration, and are therefore consistent with Policy Statement 3.20 as outlined above. Finally, there would be a limited public benefit through provision of an exhibition space as part of a wider arts-focused event at this location.

Therefore, it is recommended that consent be granted. The applicant intends to start on 4 July 2016 and to notify Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate, and has already committed to removing the pontoon and repairing the canal walls within three months of the pontoon being in place. On that basis, no conditions are deemed necessary in this case.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting in 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	30/06/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	30/06/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Arrangement of pontoon at Bairds Brae for Art Exhibition
- Email from Chris O’Connell of Scottish Canals to John Malcolm of Historic Environment Scotland, 28 June 2016 at 1248hrs