

## Scheduled Monument Consent Application for Installation of Heritage Interpretation and Landscaping on the Forth & Clyde Canal between the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix Park

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is supporting documentation for the Scheduled Monument Application for the installation of interpretation and landscaping works on the Forth & Clyde Canal.

The heritage installations form part of a greater programme of improvements to the public amenity of the canal, that includes the revitalisation of heritage interpretation at the Falkirk Wheel (TFW) and the canal corridor between TFW and the Helix. This programme of work so far has included the design of a new colour scheme and themes on the tour boats of the TFW, installations within the grounds of the TFW, upgrading of the towpath and provision of LED lights within the towpath.

Four further locations where interpretation will be installed have been initially identified (see L\_100), two of which fall within the boundary of the scheduled monument, Location 2 Rosebank (see 16007\_L\_102 and L\_201) and Location 3 Lock 5 (see 16007\_L\_103, L\_202).

## 2.0 LOCATION 2

This location is next to the towpath opposite Rosebank Distillery at the historic Lock 11, which was decommissioned and its channel deepened during the Millennium Works circa 2000AD. The landscaping works detailed in Drawing 16007\_L\_202 include;

- laying of new paving, edging and concrete surfaces (depth of foundations 350mm max)
- laying of turf (on existing surface, after scarification, and adding 150mm of loam for seeding)
- installation of bench (no foundations)
- installation Midi-lith signage (see '4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01' and '16032\_Rosebank\_wayfinding (002)')
- installation of interpretation board (see '4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01' and '16032\_Rosebank\_wayfinding (002)').

The impact on the **setting** of the canal would be minimal. The addition of new hard-surfaces over what is presently a grassed area in an urban environment will not hinder reading the visual line of the canal nor the arrangement of the historic structures that define the monument, which include the site of the old Lock 11, now unused with lock gates removed. The height of the new elements including the Midi-lith and Whiskey Bottle will not significantly interrupt the views of the canal-side elevation of the Rosebank distillery (see 4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01).

The impact on the **physical infrastructure** including any buried remains for the most part will be minimal. The foundations for the new surfaces are shallow enough that they are unlikely to disturb putative buried remains. The Midi-lith and Whiskey Bottle with deeper foundations (circa 600mm) have a greater possibility of disturbing buried remains. However, the possibility of buried remains is low.

The ordnance survey maps from 1860 to present and plans from the Scottish Archive dating from 1845 do not show any structures adjacent to the canal, hence no corresponding foundations will be present. There is the possibility of a hard-surface under the current grassed area, but there are no physical traces of this on the surface. Long serving members of Scottish Canals staff do not recall the area being anything other than a grassed area.

## 3.0 Location 3

This location is adjacent to the B902 Falkirk, and in front of the current Restaurant Gambero Rosso. The landscaping work detailed in Drawing 16007\_L\_201 includes;

- planting of hedging (depth of root ball circa 500mm)

- planting of trees, species to be determined. (depth of root ball circa 800mm contained within a root barrier system) NB. The trees shown in the photo visual (*4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01*) were for design purposes and are not the final positions of tree planting which is shown on (*16007\_L\_202*)
- laying of new paving, edging and concrete surfaces (depth of foundations 350mm max)
- installation of benches (no foundations)
- removal of existing sign (excavated and removed by hand)
- installation Midi-lith signage (see '*4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01*' and '*16032\_Rosebank\_wayfinding (002)*')
- installation of interpretation board (see '*4x2\_001 Whiskey\_Installation visuals V01*' and '*16032\_Rosebank\_wayfinding (002)*').

The impact on the **setting** of the canal would be minimal. As with the Rosebank site, Lock 5 is in a developed urban setting with areas of existing hard-standing and hence the addition of paving and new surfaces will not unduly alter the setting of the canal. Similarly, the addition of the Vinegar Bottle, interpretation board and trees will not obscure the views of the canal, nor will they impede '*reading*' the defining features of the canal which are its water-space and the structure of Lock 5, albeit a modern structure. Also the existing line of the towpath will remain the same.

Lock 5 has had a number historic canal-side industries and canal infrastructure at this location. The first Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows an historic basin and wharf serviced by tram-lines. However, during the construction of the new Lock 5 in 2001 the canal wall on the towpath side collapsed, undermining the foundations of the buildings that then occupied the canal-side. This collapse and the subsequent remedial work as well as the construction of the new lock is likely to have destroyed, or at least greatly impacted upon any putative historic remains. The subsequent construction of the restaurant will also have impacted on any buried remains. In light of this fact the installation of these proposed interpretive elements will have little if any impact on archaeological remains.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

This proposal for interpretation will further strengthen the canal corridor between the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix as a valued public amenity. It's specific purpose of highlighting the heritage of the Forth & Clyde Canal is realised in a designed and engaging manner. Other locations for future heritage interpretation have also been identified, such as Lock 16 and Port Downie the location of the historic link between the Union and Forth & Clyde Canal, and proposals for interpretation at these locations will be forthcoming once funding and resources are in place.

Scottish Canals feel that the necessary interventions in the historic fabric and setting of the canal are offset by the positive impact on the local community, the canal users, and for the general interpretation of this national monument.

Yours sincerely

Chris O'Connell

NB.

- The details for the depth of foundations for elements of this proposal are still being finalised. Scottish Canals and/or Scottish Canals Design Consultants will forward these as soon as they are finalised.
- The final details the text and dimensions of the interpretation boards and Midi-liths are in draft. Once finalised these too will be forwarded to HES for approval.
- Scottish Canals Senior Environmental Specialist is preparing a statement on the effects of these proposal on the ecology of the canal. Once this statement has been drafted it will be forwarded to HES as part of this application.
- Scottish Canals hope to start the installation of the heritage interpretation Week Beginning 7<sup>th</sup> November. Scottish Canals understand that this falls within the normal period of HES review and decision notification, but hope that this proposal could consented within this timeframe.