Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018548

Scheduled Monument	Cammo Canal		
Index no	SM6440	**Grid ref**	NT 17300 74600

Date application validated	01 September 2016
Summary of proposed works	Improvements to the Canal

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted subject to conditions

2. Background

Cammo Canal is an 18th century ornamental garden feature associated with the now ruined Cammo House. Measuring 140m long, the canal is a rare survival of an unusual feature in Scotland. The stone-lined sides of the canal are still visible, but the nature of the base of the canal basin is unknown.

Cammo House is now ruined and its grounds are maintained by City of Edinburgh Council as a country park. The Canal used to offer a high-quality environment for wildlife but a build-up of anaerobic silt within the canal basin has resulted in a hostile environment meant that its natural heritage interest has been lost. Naturally regenerated trees diminish light to the canal exacerbating the loss of natural heritage interest within the water body, obscuring the field characteristics of the canal and threatening the integrity of the canal's stone walls. There is also concern that the canal increasingly represents a possible safety risk to visitors, pets and wildlife; the dense mud could trap humans and animals venturing into the canal leading to injury or drowning. City of Edinburgh Council wishes to undertake dredging works to clear the canal to enhance its wildlife value and its amenity as one of the few surviving features of the early garden on the site.

The applicants have undertaken pre-application discussions with HES. There is a belief within the Council that the canal has been dredged at least once before in the early 1980s but there is no known record of this work.

3. Proposals

Removal of silt and debris from canal basin and felling of self-seeded trees.

The works will comprise

- Removal of silt and debris from canal basin using a mechanical digger
- Construction and removal of temporary hardcore ramp to allow machinery to access the canal
- Felling of self-seeded trees along the canal banks
- Archaeological supervision of works

4. Representations received

None

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be considered 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.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

3.14. A monument is included 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 this policy statement that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

3.15. Monuments are subject to decay and the threat of destruction, from natural and human causes. Conservation work is normally needed to prolong the life of a monument, but there is a risk that this can be so invasive that it irreversibly modifies

the monument's character and affects the special interest or features that made the monument important in the first place.

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.

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;
c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
d. that the management and execution of alteration, including remedial work, is sympathetic to the historic character;
e. that appropriate skills and techniques, materials and construction techniques are specified where appropriate;
f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
g. that it is possible, on close inspection, to differentiate new work from old particularly on masonry structures;
h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects; and
i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments

are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

b) Assessment

The work will comprise the removal of a substantial build-up of silt and other debris from the basin of the canal, along with the removal of a number of self-seeded trees which have grown up along the banks of the canal.

The silt and debris will be removed using a mechanical digger which will have to access the canal basin in order to carry out the work; the canal banks are too overgrown to allow access from the sides. A temporary hardcore ramp will have to be installed at the western end of the canal to allow vehicular access. Waste materials from the works will be distributed across other areas of the park, well away from the scheduled area.

While a large amount of material is expected to be removed, the impact on the structure of the canal itself should be minimal, as the intention is to leave the stone built walls and any surviving base of the canal undisturbed. An archaeological auger survey carried out over the summer to try to identify the nature of the canal base was inconclusive. The current application contains a commitment to undertake a watching brief during clearance works, but no written scheme or method statement has been provided for such works.

The works described in the application should have a minimal impact on the physical remains of the monument and are consistent with conserving its cultural significance. The tree felling will remove a potentially significant risk to the long-term survival of the site. The resulting improvements in visibility and access can be seen as a positive public benefit.

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

None

d) Conclusion

The works described in this application represent alterations and additions to the monument under part 1: 2: 2(b) of the Act and as such, scheduled monument consent is required.

I am content that the works described in this application should result in no disturbance to the structure of the monument. As such I consider they will have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument, in accordance with sections 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy Statement.

I consider the application provides specific justification for the works, in accordance with section 3.17 of the Policy Statement.

The application does not contain clear method statements for the construction and removal of the temporary ramp or the archaeological monitoring of the works. I have therefore recommended conditions requiring the prior submission and approval of such documents, in accordance with section 3.22 of the Policy Statement.

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. No work requiring scheduled monument consent shall take place within the scheduled area [indicated on the plan supplied with the scheduled monument consent application,] until the applicant has secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) / project design and has had this WSI approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland This scheme of works shall be fully implemented during the course of the approved development.

   Reason: to ensure that any surviving and identifiable remains of the canal structure can be identified and protected in situ during works.

2. No works relating to the construction and removal of the access ramp shall commence on site until a specification/method statement for the works has been approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland.

   Reason: to ensure that work will be carried out to a standard acceptable to Historic Environment Scotland and impacts on the monument are minimised.

8. Approval

Case officer	Deirdre Cameron	**Date**	14 October 2016
Approved by	George Findlater	**Date**	14 October 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

1) Location plan
2) Headland Archaeology CCED16: Auger Survey Report, Cammo Canal, August 2016
3) Cammo Estate Canal: tree works