Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018570

Scheduled Monument	Crinan Canal, Cairnbaan - Ardrishaig		
Index no	SM6501	**Grid ref**	NR 82300 90900

Date application validated	07 October 2016
Summary of proposed works	Installation of solar LED lights to towpath (Ardrishaig to Oakfield Bridge)

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for installation of LED solar towpath lights be granted.

2. Background

The monument is a stretch of the Crinan Canal from Ardrishaig to Cairnbaan. The canal was designed by an eminent Scots engineer John Rennie, and built between 1794 and 1809 as a ship canal linking the sea lochs Crinan and Gilp. This allowed ships to avoid a treacherous journey around the Mull of Kintyre

The scheduled area includes the canal itself together with the towpath and a narrow strip of ground to either side. It also includes related canal structures such as bridges and locks.

The monument is of national importance because it represents a significant feat of Georgian engineering. The canal has survived as a working waterway for almost two centuries and in that time has seen only minor changes.

It is the towpath that runs on the east side of the canal from Ardrishaig to Oakfield Bridge, near Lochgilphead, that this application relates to. The application is to install LED lights on either side of the path in order to guide people using the towpath in low light conditions. It has been submitted by Scottish Canals.

The application is accompanied by a Heritage Impact Study by Scottish Canals' Senior Heritage Advisor.

3. Proposals

It is proposed to install LED lights on either side of the towpath. This is designed to encourage public use of the towpath at night or in low light conditions, while reducing the risk of people accidentally leaving the towpath. It follows similar schemes at other canals, which have been positively received.

The work would comprise:

- Mechanical cutting of a round hole for 110mm diameter LED lights in a stretch of hard-surfaced towpath; to a depth of up to 200mm and at intervals of 7m on either side of the towpath.
- Filling the hole with bitumen.
- Installation of a solar-powered low light-emitting, white LED.

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

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.

3.16. 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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the installation of LED lights on the canal towpath to facilitate the public's use of the towpath during times of low light. This stretch of towpath provides an important route for cyclists and pedestrians between Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig.

The installation of the lights would involve minor physical disturbance confined to the upper 0.2m of the modern towpath surface and make-up. This would have no adverse impacts on the historic fabric of the monument.

The effects of the lighting on the character of the canal has been assessed in a Heritage Impact Study submitted in support of the application. This sets out that while the lights would slightly alter the character of the canal during low light conditions this visual impact would be mitigated by the lights all being white and of low level. The lights have been designed to provide a point of light that acts as a visual guide along the towpath without lighting the surrounding area.

The level of change of the canal's character would be minimised and the lighting would have a minimal effect on the canal's cultural significance.

The works have been carefully designed to have a minimal effect on the cultural significance of the monument. The lights would facilitate public use of the canal and improve public safety.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement.

The proposed works, comprising installation of LED lights, are being done in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement.

The objectives of the proposed work have been clearly set out; they would facilitate safe public use of the towpath during low light conditions.

The works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned. Consequently, no conditions are considered necessary.

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

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Simon Stronach	**Date**	21 October 2016
Approved by	John Raven	**Date**	24 October 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Heritage Impact Study and Summary of Works for the Installation of LED lights on the Crinan Canal, Ardrishaig to Oakfield Bridge