



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018524		
Scheduled Monument	Wanlockhead, remains of lead mining and smelting		
Index no	SM5597	Grid ref	NS 85400 14500
Date application validated	30 September 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Fencing of the tail ponds		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted.

2. Background

The monument consists of most of the above and below-ground remains of lead mining and smelting in Wanlockhead.

These consist of shafts, adits, and underground workings (including specifically the water-pressure pumping engine in the Glencrieff Mine), above-ground remains of buildings and machinery used in mining, tracks, roads, railways and water-courses associated with lead working, waste heaps, and the remains of at least two lead smelters and a washing floor, including the flue system associated with the Meadowfoot smelter.

The Queensberry Tailing Pond (the subject of this application) is part of the overall monument but not included within the scheduled area. It is bounded on the north by the Wanlock Water, and the area to the north of the burn is within the scheduled area.

The applicant has received a report from SEPA that has been carried out by the Coal Authority (see link at annex A of this report, and recommendation at top of page 63). This report concludes that significant concentrations of lead, zinc and cadmium are entering the Wanlock Water, and that much of this contamination is coming from the loose sediments in and around the Queensberry Tailing Pond.



The landowner has therefore identified a requirement to prevent access to an area of contaminated ground at the Queensberry Tailing Pond. In order to prevent members of the public or farm animals accessing the area and causing erosion of contaminated material into the Wanlock Water, it is proposed to fence off the tailing pond and the adjacent ground. In order to prevent access to the burn, the fence would also include its north bank, which places it within the scheduled area.

3. Proposals

- New fence erection.

The proposed fencing is recommended in the SEPA/Coal Authority report. This would include an area measuring approximately 320m by 100m, with the long northern axis of this lying entirely within the scheduled area. This will involve the placing of stobs at 2.5m centres and strainers at the northwest and northeast corners to support a stockproof fence. In addition, the applicant has received advice that otter gates are placed on the fenceline to allow otters to traverse the fence without allowing cattle to pass through. One otter gate is proposed on the northern fenceline, and will use two timber uprights placed at 205mm centres to a depth of 40mm.

4. Representations received

No representations have been 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 scheduled monuments.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

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 physical impact on the monument

There are no upstanding archaeological features associated with the cultural significance of the monument in the area affected. The northern fenceline will lie between the burn and the access track leading up the glen, and will be slightly below the solum of the road. The burn makes a logical edge to the scheduled area, and it is likely that the scheduling of the area between the track and the burn is a consequence of this. The fenceposts and otter gate will cause approximately 130 holes to be broken into ground that has no obvious prior interventions, so it is possible that buried remains associated with mining activity might be disturbed. However, this possibility is not very likely, as no obvious features are evident on historic mapping other than the adjacent tailing pond.

No archaeological mitigation is proposed in this application. However, due to the lack of evidence of any remains that are primary to the scheduling of the monument, this does not appear to be necessary in this case.

The impact on the cultural significance of the monument

The physical impact of the proposed fence would not effect any upstanding features, and the risk of encountering buried remains is negligible. The visual impact of the fenceline on the cultural significance of the monument would be negligible, as it would still be possible to understand and appreciate the spatial relationships of the upstanding features in the area, including adits, tailing ponds and spoilheaps. Therefore, the overall impact on the cultural significance of the monument would be negligible.

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

No otters were detected during the biodiversity survey, and no other biodiversity/EPS issues have been identified. However, the otter survey took a precautionary approach, as otters were noted in the Wanlock Water in 1995. On that basis, the survey recommended that deep excavations be covered overnight, and that otter gates were created in the fence to allow otter to traverse the area as required. The proposed methodology provides for otter gates in the fence. This provision exceeds the basic requirement, given that no otters have been identified in the survey. On that basis, no natural heritage implications are likely to result from this application.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works will not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the monument, and can be reversed once the pollution issues in the tailing pond have



been dealt with satisfactorily. Therefore, these works are fully consistent with policy provision 3.16 (as there will be no impact on the cultural significance of the monument) of the HES Policy Statement.

It is proposed that the works start imminently, and the applicant has undertaken to notify HES upon completion. These works are not going to have a direct impact on upstanding elements of the mining complex. On that basis, it is not reasonable or necessary to include a notification condition. No reporting is proposed or necessary, and it a reporting condition is not required.

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	John Malcolm	Date	02 November 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	02 November 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Fencing Plan and Details - no ref. no.

Otter Survey - no ref. no.

http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/218986/impacts_mining_wanlock_water.pdf - link to Coal Authority's 'The impacts of mining on the Wanlock Water, Wanlockhead, Dumfries & Galloway' Scoping Study. Hard copy is on file.