

HarrisonStevens

landscape architecture & urban design

9-11 Horne Terrace, Edinburgh

Scheduled Monument Consent

Landscape Report

Tree and Shrub Growth, South Bank – north boundary of site

The bank to the south of the canal along the north boundary of the site have sustained native tree and shrub growth over the last few decades. The alignment of the canal along the site north boundary has encroached into the original alignment through sustained but incremental deposition of dredged material. Upon these re-claimed canal banks, self-seeded native trees have established.

It is proposed to remove these trees from the banks to facilitate the installation of mooring pontoon and an access footpath for Scottish Canals. In our opinion felling the trees, 2no., will not be detrimental to the landscape quality nor setting of the canal and the bankside development, we believe for the following reasons:

- Individually the trees are of poor form
- low value for landscape amenity
- potential for long term damage to the canal bank and bed through root disturbance
- over shading quality of the trees may limit biodiversity.
- the trees contribute little to the environment in terms of long term and enduring structure and diversity

Wildlife Corridor

As a collection of native shrubs and trees the linear nature of the opportune growth provides a wildlife corridor to the length of the canal. To mitigate against the disconnect when new development is introduced adjacent to the canal a wider strategy of biodiversity implementation has been proposed by Scottish Canals. This includes;

- minimising the extent of artificial revetment
- maximising retention of existing embankment
- replanting banks with diverse native aquatics and suitable meadow grasses to enhance the corridor biodiversity

Timing of clearance

Tree and shrub clearance should be undertaken out with the nesting season. Therefore, on this site it would be acceptable to fell at any time from October to late February. Should felling fall out with this time an ecologist report on nesting on the site will be required to issue to CEC for approval prior to felling commencing.