



## Case Information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	300018654		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Forth and Clyde Canal: Glasgow Branch		
<b>Index no</b>	SM6771	<b>Grid ref</b>	NS 57100 68900
<b>Date application validated</b>	31 October 2016		
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Forth & Clyde Canal - GPR Works for NGIWMS Project		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) in five locations for the NGIWMS Project be granted without conditions

### 2. Background

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The monument is a superlative example of Georgian engineering. Constructed between 1768 and 1790), it was the first of Scotland's great inland waterways, and even at the time of its opening in the 1770's it was christened 'The Great Canal' in recognition of its national importance. The scheduled area is 5 km long and runs from Stockingfield to Speir's Wharf. The monument includes the entire length in water, together with the banks on either side, and the towing path running along the west side. In addition, the monument includes a number of canal structures.

The canal is a working industrial monument and various changes have taken place to it over the years. Depending on its age and condition, the physical fabric of the canal makes varying contributions to its cultural significance. In general, the towpath surfaces and the adjacent grassy verges are modern and therefore do not make a significant intrinsic contribution to the national importance of the monument. However, they represent a significant contextual contribution, as views along the towpath and channel are key to understanding and appreciating its form and how it functions.

HES Heritage Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the works as part of the NGIWMS Project.



### 3. Proposals

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- The use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) in five locations

The works comprises the non-invasive technique of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) by Scottish Canals. The device will be used in five locations measuring 100m long by 5m wide along the towpath. It would not involve any ground disturbance.

The works are proposed in order to inform design of services in the ground and ground conditions. GPR is a non-destructive survey technique which uses high-frequency radar waves to identify sub-surface features. The device is usually mounted on some kind of wheeled trolley which is then pulled across the ground, meaning that any ground disturbance is minimal.

### 4. Representations received

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No third party representations were received.

### 5. Report

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#### a) Policy considerations

The application should be considered with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

[Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#)

[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 survey would be undertaken along the towpath which is modern. However, as GPR is not an invasive technique, the physical impact of the proposed works on the monument would be minimal. The proposed works would also not affect the cultural significance of the monument. The results will help inform ongoing management and landuse decisions.



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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely by the applicant and SNH (See PP&S assessment and letter from SNH).

### **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 Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) for the NGIWMS Project are minimal and therefore do not conflict with paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement

## **6. Recommended decision**

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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**

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No conditions have been attached to this decision.

## **8. Approval**

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<b>Case officer</b>	Nicola Hall	<b>Date</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Approved by</b>	John Raven	<b>Date</b>	15 December 2016

### **Annex A – list of supporting documents**

- Survey Methodology
- Plan showing area of survey
- Confirmation of permission to undertake survey from owner