



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018811		
Scheduled Monument	Union Canal, Fountainbridge to River Almond		
Index no	SM11097	Grid ref	NT 20500 70200
Date application validated	08 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Three mini boreholes into the soil margin behind the existing masonry canal wall		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for **Union Canal, Viewforth - Three mini boreholes into the soil margin behind the existing masonry canal** wall be granted without conditions.

2. Background

The monument is a section of the Union Canal.

The scheduled area relevant to this application comprises an approximately 120m long section of the north bank of the canal, towards its eastern terminus. The application is for drilling three small boreholes in the soil margin beyond (north of) the canal. It is associated with previously consented works (case reference 201601804).

The monument is of national importance as an integral part of the Union Canal and as an important component of Georgian civil engineering. Designed by a noted Scots Engineer, Hugh Baird, and built between 1818-23, its continuous watercourse was without need of a single lock and was graced by three major aqueducts inspired by another great Scots civil engineer, Thomas Telford.

It has been submitted by Scottish Canals.

The application is accompanied by four location plans, heritage assessment, borehole position plan, boring method statement, bore equipment specification and photographs.



3. Proposals

- Temporary erection of Heras fencing to isolate the works.
- Boring of three assessment holes each up to 110m dia by 6000mm depth.
- Backfilling of three boreholes.
- Spoil and debris to be removed.

Consented works – **Union Canal, Viewforth - Three mini boreholes into the soil margin behind the existing masonry canal** to be undertaken by a mobile, vehicle-drawn rig. The works are located in the soil margin behind the towpath and canal masonry wall edge.

Aims – To determine the structure / properties of ground adjacent to the canal edge in order to inform works at this section of the canal edge (the latter works are consented under consent reference 201601804).

Personnel – Mackenzie Construction.

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 scheduled monuments.

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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the **Union Canal, Viewforth - Three mini boreholes into the soil margin behind the existing masonry canal**. This is intended to inform the adjacent piling works by characterising the buried rock and soil strata. The work is part of the wider Scottish Canals strategy for the regeneration of the Union canal and improvements to access and amenity at the Lochrin Basin hub.

The physical impact of the proposed works would be negligible in relation to the overall size of the Scheduled Monument. The boring work will avoid the historic fabric of the masonry wall and the supporting heritage impact assessment indicates that there are no canal-side structures that would be affected by the works. The works would not affect the cultural significance of the monument.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

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 works, comprising **Union Canal, Viewforth - Three mini boreholes into the soil margin behind the existing masonry canal**, are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have negligible impact on the cultural significance of the monument. 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	Andrew Fulton	Date	16 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	18 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- 1:1000 scale location plan.
- Borehole position plan.
- Boring method statement.
- Bore equipment specification and photographs.
- Scottish Canals Heritage Impact Assessment.