



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018824		
Scheduled Monument	Crinan Canal, Crinan to Cairnbaan		
Index no	SM6500	Grid ref	NR 78800 94400
Date application validated	09 December 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Replacement of Hazardous lock quadrants at Lock 11		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for ' Crinan Canal - Replacement of Hazardous lock quadrants at Lock 11' be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises a stretch of inland waterway forming part of the Crinan Canal running from the sea-lock (lock number 15) at Crinan eastward to the summit reach immediately E of lock number 9.

The scheduled area is all that part of the canal in water together with all of the towpath running along the N and NE banks and a narrow strip of ground to either side of the canal and towpath, as well as various structures relating to the construction and operation of the canal. Many modern features are excluded from the scheduling including metal and timber jetties.

The monument is of national importance because it comprises part of the Crinan Canal, an excellent example of Georgian civil engineering and the work of its designer, Scots engineer John Rennie. This ship canal runs across Knapdale between Loch Crinan and Loch Gilp, creating a route from the Firth of Clyde to the Inner Hebrides which avoids the open seas around the Mull of Kintyre. It was built between 1794 and 1809.

The application is for the replacement of four stone and concrete quadrants at Lock 11 with stone setts. The application also includes the like for like rebuild of a collapsed wall but this work is covered under the class III consents with Scottish canals so does



not need SMC - it is therefore not discussed further in this application. It has been submitted by Scottish Canals.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

- Removal of four old quadrants at lock 11
- Installation of new replacement stone quadrants

Consented works – Replacement of Hazardous lock quadrants at Lock 11

The installation of the new quadrants would be undertaken by excavating and removing the old degraded quadrants to a depth of 10cm. This would remove the existing surviving cobbles and concrete base. A foundation layer 10cm deep of dry concrete would be laid within which the stone setts would be installed. A sand and cement dust would then be brushed over them in order to form a level area. Excavated materials will be used to tie in the final levels to match the preexisting surrounding topography.

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,

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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.

3.20. Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the replacement of hazardous lock quadrants at Lock 11. They are damaged and present a hazard to the public.

The physical impacts of the works would occur during the removal of the existing quadrants prior to the installation of the replacement. Although the quadrants are original features in this section of the canal, they have been refurbished many times during the lifetime of the canal. There are in poor condition and retain very little of their historic fabric or character. Therefore, although the quadrants contain a small amount of historic fabric, they are a working part of the monument which is subject to continuous maintenance and refurbishment in keeping with the nature of the canal as a working waterway. The small potential for loss of historic fabric is therefore not assessed as a significance likely to impact upon the cultural significance of the monument. The works will not create any impact below the depth of the existing quadrants and so should not have the potential to disturb any underlying deposits.

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The form and design of the replacement quadrants is typical of that of other quadrants on the Crinan Canal, and is therefore in keeping with the visual appearance of the canal. As the original damaged and degraded quadrants will be replaced, the visual amenity of the canal will be improved and would the ability to understand and appreciate the relationship between the quadrants and lock arms would be enhanced. The works should therefore have no potential to negatively impact on the setting of the canal and may enhance the ability to appreciate its cultural significance.

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.

There should be no significant impact on the physical fabric of the canal during the works and the proposals would have little potential to negatively affect its cultural significance or setting. The work is necessary to conserve the canal and the works will improve its visual amenity.

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	Kevin Grant	Date	27 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	27 January 2017

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Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Picture of existing and proposed quadrants
- Location map
- Heritage Impact assessment and Environmental Impact assessment