

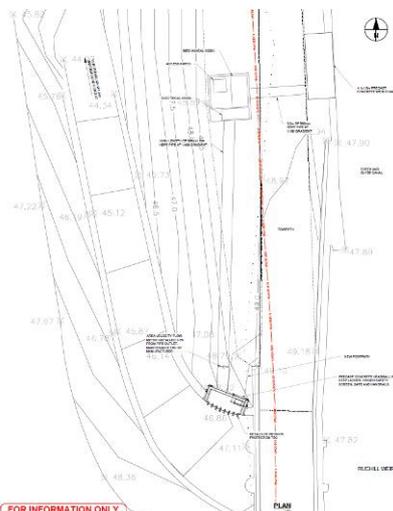
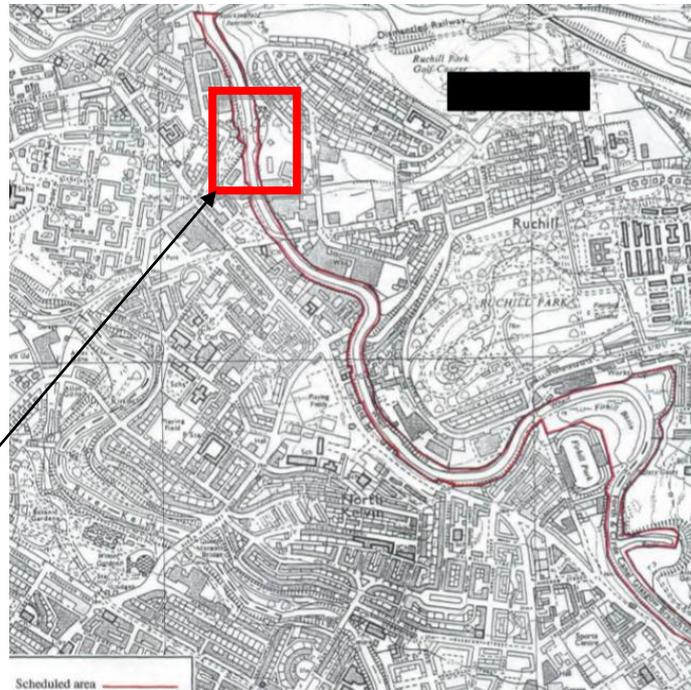


Case reference	SMC-GLW-001
Application details	Installation of discharge water management structure
Site address	Ruchill Weir, Forth and Clyde Canal, Glasgow (SM – 6771)
Applicant	Scottish Canals
Determining Authority	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Local Authority Area	Glasgow
Reason(s) for notification	Notification Direction 2015 – works to be granted Scheduled Monument Consent by Historic Environment Scotland go beyond the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument
Representations	Nil
Date notified to Ministers	2 October 2018 but not fully documented until 3 October 2018
Date of recommendation	24 October 2018
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the installation of a discharge water management structure at Ruchill Weir, part of the Forth and Clyde Canal in Glasgow. The weir is an original masonry structure built into the canal wall, which sits below the towpath and was designed to allow water to escape from the canal to prevent flooding. The works comprise **(i)** the installation of HDPE piping to connect the previously consented kiosk to the weir tail-race, **(ii)** the creation of a discharge aperture for the exit of the HDPE pipe in the tail-race wall, **(iii)** the creation of small access footpath and **(iv)** the installation of a metal grate platform into the tail-race wall. It follows on from a previous SMC application for works to install a new weir structure, penstock, control kiosk, and piping at the weir which has already been consented by HES. Both applications provide a complete automated water control structure at Ruchill Weir. This forms part of a wider scheme known as the North Glasgow Integrated Water Management System (NGIWMS) designed to provide a key control mechanism and manage the problem of surface water within the city. Overall the NGIWMS would turn sections of the Forth and Clyde Canal into a large-scale sustainable urban drainage scheme during storm events.
- The monument comprises a length of inland waterway forming the part of the Forth and Clyde Canal, known as the Glasgow branch. It is 3 miles (5 km) long and runs from Stockingfield (north end) to Speir's Wharf (south end). The monument includes the entire canal basin together with the banks on either side and the towing path running along the west side. The monument also includes 8 separate canal structures including the weir at Ruchill.

- The monument is of national importance because it is a superlative example of Georgian civil engineering. The canal was the first of Scotland's great inland waterways to be constructed (between 1768 and 1791). The Glasgow Branch is an important element in the canal's overall design and is associated with the notable civil engineers John Smeaton and Robert Whitworth.



Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during consideration of this application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division following notification and they are content and have no further comment to make.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant SMC for physical works which will impact on the Scheduled Monument as the structural works, related disturbance and removal of material goes beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. This is a significant departure from policy as set out in section 3.16 of the HES Policy Statement.
2. The application has been made by Scottish Canals. HES Heritage Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works. The applicant has supplied a detailed historic impact assessment setting out an assessment of the archaeological remains and condition of the affected parts of the monument. The assessment made utilises the evidence provided on the archaeological remains and their condition and is consistent with observations made by HES staff on site.
3. The physical works for the installation of a discharge water management structure would involve: **(i)** machine excavation of a trench for the installation of a 14.9m HDPE pipe, 600mm in diameter; **(ii)** the takedown of approximately 1m of historic tail-race wall to create a 600mm aperture for the pipe. (The original tail-race masonry would be reinstated around the newly created aperture, and this would all be done by hand); **(iii)** creating a path for safe access between the towpath the top of the tail-race wall, above the aperture, The whindust path would be approximately 4m long, 1m wide, and no greater than 450mm in depth, and would comprise removing the upper layer of turf to the subsoil, then compacting the gravel on top of this surface and would be reversible; and **(iv)**. creating a safe working and inspection purposes by installing a metal grate platform below the aperture. This would measure approximately 1m by 2.1m and would be secured by bolts into the mortar joints at the bottom of the tail-race wall. Access to the aperture from the grate would be by a removable ladder.
4. HES consider the overall form of the embankment would be retained as part of these works, and the intrinsic archaeological contribution that the embankments make to the cultural significance of the monument is slight. Original canal walling is not present in the area proposed and it is likely that the present appearance of this section of canal relates to 20th-century repairs. They consider the works would have a minor physical impact on the monument and its cultural significance and would affect a relatively small proportion of the scheduled monument and therefore has been assessed as non-extensive.
5. HES believe the application meets paragraph 3.20 of their Policy Statement 2016 because it has been demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned. However a timetable for the works has not been supplied, therefore a single condition is suggested to notify HES in advance of the works being undertaken which allows for the works to be adequately monitored.
6. HES consider the benefits the proposed water management works would bring are greater than the negative effects of the removal of some archaeological deposits and the proposal is concluded to be broadly consistent with relevant

policy. However, they consider the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument. Consequently there is a requirement to notify Scottish Ministers as per The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015.

7. In summary, this SMC does **not** raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

Recommendation:

- The application should be cleared back to Historic Environment Scotland to issue Scheduled Monument Consent with one condition.