



Case reference	SMC-WDS-001
Application details	Installation of replica Roman distance slab and associated landscaping – Antonine Wall Distance Stones Project
Site address	Forth & Clyde Canal: Old Kilpatrick - Linnvale section, Portpatrick Road, Old Kilpatrick (SM 6778)
Applicant Determining Authority Local Authority Area	GUARD Archaeology Limited Historic Environment Scotland (HES) West Dunbartonshire Council
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 Date of recommendation	18 June 2020 2 July 2020
Decision / recommendation	Clear

Description of Proposal and Site:

- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is sought for the construction and installation of a wall containing a replica Roman distance slab, associated interpretation and landscaping at the Forth & Clyde Canal: Linnvale to Portpatrick Road, Old Kilpatrick section.
- The monument comprises the length of inland waterway forming part of the Forth & Clyde Canal which falls within the boundary of the civil parish of Old Kilpatrick and the boundary of Clydebanks district. It is approximately 3 miles (5 km) long and runs from the western edge of Old Kilpatrick to the west of the bascule bridge at Linnvale. (See Figures 1-4 below). The monument includes its entire length in water together with banks, towing paths and several canal structures, including the bascule bridge. This particular stretch of canal was part of a scheme to extend the canal westward from its original western terminus at Stockingfield, Glasgow.
- The monument is of national importance because, as an integral part of the Forth & Clyde Canal, it is an excellent example of Georgian civil engineering. The canal was the first of Scotland's great inland waterways to be constructed from 1768 to 1791.
- The proposed works are also located within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site boundary, with the replica distance slab sited to mark the line of the Antonine Wall. The wall structure is not visible at this location however it may survive as buried archaeological features but disturbed by the canal and road construction.

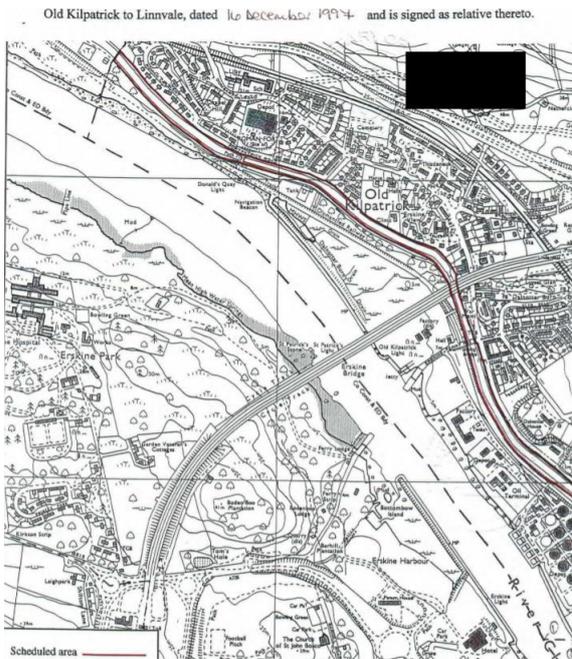


Figure 1 – Location map - scheduled area outlined in red above

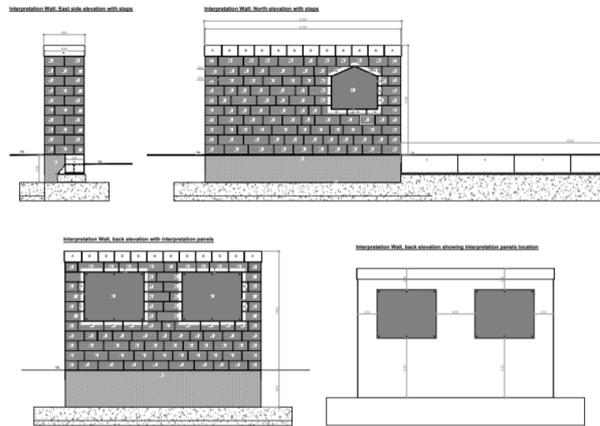


Figure 2 - Construction drawing of wall and panels

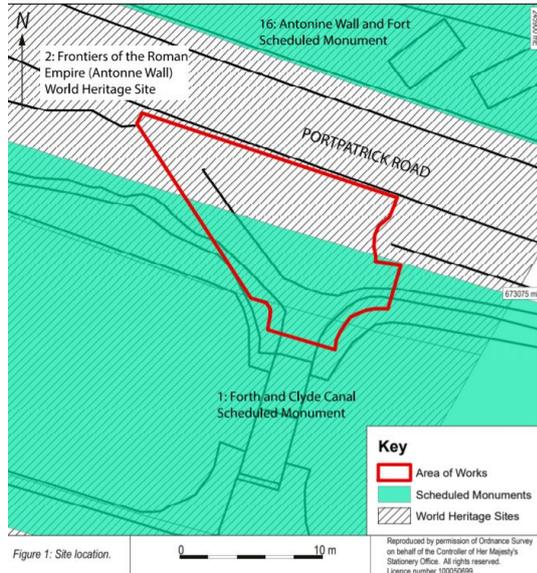


Figure 3 – Proposed works in relation to Antonine Wall, fort and canal structure

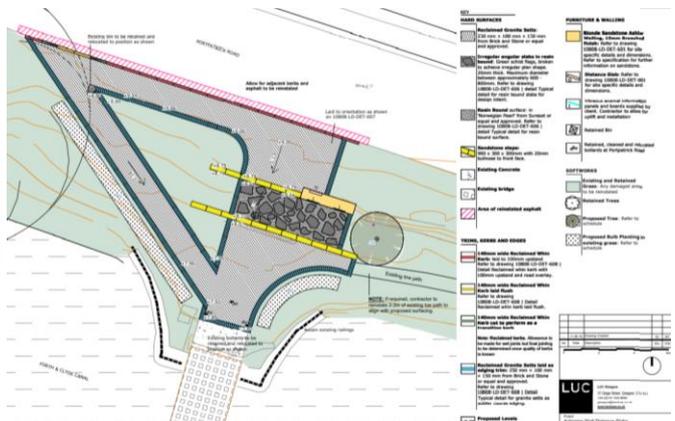


Figure 4 – Landscape proposals

Consultations and Representations:

- No representations were made during HES' consideration of the application.
- PAD consulted Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division (CHED) following notification. They consider the proposed works do not raise any specific issues of national importance as the proposals would allow improved local access for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the historic environment, in a safe manner, with clear community engagement value.

Assessment:

1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are minded to grant SMC for the installation of a replica Roman distance slab and wall, associated interpretation and landscaping at the Forth & Clyde Canal, however the related ground

disturbance goes beyond the minimum level of intervention which is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument.

2. The application has been submitted by GUARD Archaeology on behalf of LUC who have been commissioned by West Dunbartonshire Council as part of the Antonine Wall Distance Slabs interpretation project. The application has been accompanied by a detailed Project Design and Written Scheme of Investigation that HES believes sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology.
3. The proposed works involve the excavation of an area up to 800mm deep to provide a level surface for foundations, next to the junction of the canal bridge with the towpath and Portpatrick Road (see Figure 4); the construction of a wall (3m long and 1.7m high); and the installation of interpretation panels to explain the importance of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, with associated hard landscaping and tree removal and replanting.
4. HES consider the proposed works would have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the Forth & Clyde Canal. The cultural significance of the canal is robust and industrial, and the area of disturbance of archaeological deposits is small in relation to the canal and is in an area which has been previously disturbed by repeated path and road construction and resurfacing. HES consider that this part of the canal is urban in character and the interpretation feature would blend in with the existing street furniture. They also consider it unlikely that any archaeological deposits pre-dating the construction of the canal survive in this area. They believe the works would not have a noticeable impact on the character and setting of the canal at this location and there would be no lasting impact on the aesthetic character of the canal.
5. HES believe the proposals are broadly consistent with relevant policy and will not conflict with their Scheduled Monument Policy 1 nor Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 1. Further information would be required in advance of the works to enable the application to be fully compliant with their Scheduled Monument Consent Policy 4 as the application does not contain a suitable timetable for the works. A single condition is to be imposed which requires this information prior to the works commencing. As the proposal is not considered the minimum necessary consistent with conserving the cultural significance of the monument, it is required to be notified to Scottish Ministers.
6. In summary, and for the reasons set out above, this SMC application does not raise any issues of national importance that would merit intervention by Ministers.

Decision/Recommendation:

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