Mr Christopher Breslin  
Scottish Canals  
Canal House  
1 Applecross Street  
GLASGOW  
G4 9SP  

Dear Mr Breslin

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005  
Scottish Canals – Waterspace Strategy  
Screening Report

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for the Scottish Canals Waterspace Strategy, received by the Scottish Government’s SEA Gateway on 27 July 2012. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority in accordance with Section 9(3) of the above Act. In doing so, I have used the criteria set out in schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

I understand that the Waterspace Strategy seeks to increase the attractiveness of the Scottish canals to tourists, commercial, residential and recreational users. A key part of the strategy involves the stimulation of residential and commercial markets on the canals, through provision and marketing of additional moorings and associated facilities. A pilot scheme of 3 mooring locations is proposed, with further locations for residential moorings identified.

I consider that undertaking SEA could have offered an opportunity for identification and implementation of positive measures within the strategy to maximise environmental benefits, including those for the historic environment. However, I note that screening is being undertaken late in the plan making process (the public consultation on the strategy having just concluded), potentially reducing the opportunity for SEA to play an integrated role in development of the strategy.

Whilst the physical changes required to achieve the additional moorings proposed are likely to have some impacts on scheduled areas of the canals, these are small scale and specific, and will be subject to project level assessment and consent regimes. In view of this, and the other information provided in the screening report, I agree that the strategy is not likely have significant environmental effects.
However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of Scottish Canals as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the strategy requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of this response in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Virginia Sharp
Senior Heritage Management Officer, SEA