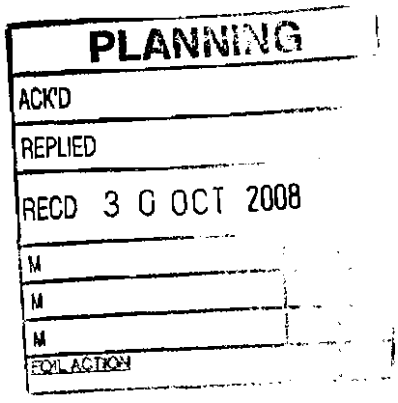
# Revision to Water Monitoring Equipment
# Lock 2
# Ashton Canal, Manchester

# Heritage, Design & Access Statement




British Waterways
Waterside House
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5AZ

British Waterways

**TYPE OF APPLICATION**
This statement accompanies the listed building consent applications in relation to the proposed revision to water monitoring equipment at lock 2.

**LOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT**
Lock 2, Ashton Canal. The lock which forms the basis of this application is designated as a grade II listed structure, the statutory description being shown in Annex 1.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.**
Proposed revision to existing water monitoring equipment to improve reliability and make system less susceptible to vandalism.

**DATE OF PREPARATION**
28th October 2008

**APPLICANT**
British Waterways

**STATEMENT PREPARED BY**
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**CONTEXT OF THE SITE**
The canal was promoted to carry coal from the mines of Ashton and Oldham to Manchester. In 1792 an Act of Parliament was lodged to create a company to be called the Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham Canal, with the original scheme was completed in 1796, running from a large basin behind what is now Piccadilly Station in Manchester, climbing gradually eastwards via 18 locks to Fairfield, Droylsden.

The canal has an interesting aspect as it passes through the urban conurbation. The canal passes through an industrial, and in some areas a post industrial landscape, where great changes are occurring to its setting. For the majority of its route it forms a water corridor through an urban development, which provides an interesting contrast between the lightness of the water space and the weight of development.

Lock 2 is situated adjacent to the former Islington Arm of the canal and enjoys a spatial relationship with both the arm and also the adjacent recently rehabilitated lock cottage.

**HERITAGE DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS**
It is accepted that in order for the LPA to consider this application it is necessary for the applicant to provide a detailed justification of the works as required by Para. 3.4 of PPG15 (Planning and the Historic Environment – 1994).

The proposal which forms the basis of this application has been developed to meet two key performance criterion. The first element involves the revision of the existing water monitoring equipment to incorporate updated technology, whilst secondly the overall layout of the equipment requires revision to protect the system from vandalism, which has led to the destruction of the existing system.

The monitoring system at lock 2 forms part of British Waterways national water monitoring and control system, this provides details to British Waterways electronically to monitor the supply of water within the canal network, ensuring that water levels are maintained at the correct level to allow safe operation of the system. Unfortunately many sites such as that at Lock 2 are sited in urban areas and thus susceptible to damage, the revised proposal at this location is intended to maintain the quality of the data whilst protecting the system from vandalism.

The proposal makes use of an existing below ground duct which was utilised under the previous system, but introduces a new duct running to the vacant building adjacent to the lock, the electrical equipment is then located within the building to protect it from damage. The key elements of the works are as follows:

1. Existing kiosk base (damaged through vandalism) is removed and replaced with a draw pit cover to minimise impact on historic structure.
2. Existing duct broken into and new pit formed with duct running below ground to point adjacent to vacant building.
3. Cables taken into building through hole drilled at base of wall to avoid lifting flagg floor.
4. New control kiosk sited within building to protect from vandalism.

Further details are shown on the attached plans, along with plan ref: DRG2900780 which illustrates the kiosk for inclusion within the building, although obviously the solar panels will be omitted from this location.

Throughout the design of the proposal a key element has been to minimise the impact upon both the fabric and setting of the listed structures, for the purpose of this proposal the building has been identified as a curtilage structure to the listed lock. By utilising the existing ducting, keeping the cables below ground minimises their impact, whilst siting the equipment within the building both minimises the visual impact whilst providing further protection from vandalism.

It is considered that the proposal does not cause detriment to the historic structure and sits comfortably within its surroundings. Therefore In conclusion it is considered that the proposed works are minor in character and complement the character of the listed structures. It is therefore respectfully requested that they be approved.

**PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO CREATING AN ACCESSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**
The principle behind the scheme is to improve public access by ensuring that water levels within the canal are accurately controlled.

**KEY ACCESS ISSUES**
The incorporation of the revised monitoring equipment will improve access by ensuring that water levels within the canal are accurately controlled.

**VEHICULAR AND TRANSPORT LINKS**
The works will improve canal transportation links by helping to maintain a suitable water supply for the Ashton Canal.

**COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A RELEVANT DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**
It is confirmed that the issue of access will be considered throughout the development and constructional phases of this project.

## ANNEXE 1 – LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

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|---|---|
| **Statutory Listing Name** | Lock No.2, off south end of Vesta Street Beswick And Clayton |
| **Statutory Listing Reference** | 698/17/509 |
| **Listing Grade** | Grade Two |
| **Date Listed** | 6/6/1994 |
| **Statutory Description** | Canal lock. c. 1792-1799, for Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne Canal Company; renovated. Large blocks of millstone grit, wooden gates. Narrow type (chamber 7 feet wide), with covered overflow channel on south side; stone staircases flanking lower entry at west end. Second in a series of 13 similar locks, all in working order. Forms group with former lock-keeper's cottage (q.v.) and bridge over Islington Branch (q.v.). |