



## SUPPORTING STATEMENT

*Application Site:* Land at Bonny Water, Bonnybridge FK4 2BY (NS815795)

*Application Description:* Riverbank Reinforcement Works

*Date:* January 2021

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### 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Investigation has shown that the rate of the Bonny Water's riverbank erosion is accelerating and there are serious concerns that, if the erosion is left unchecked, the south riverbank is at risk of being critically undermined. The outcome of this could be damage or failure of the strategic water main pipebridge. Scottish Water therefore has a statutory responsibility to reinforce the Bonny Water's southern riverbank with a combination of engineering works over 16 metres distance upstream of grid reference (NS815795). The key drivers of the project are to ensure the continuity of the public water supplies, to adequately protect the existing infrastructure and to protect the environment.

### 2.0 PROPOSED WORKS

#### 2.1 Planning Application

The application site is located in the Bonny Water watercourse approximately 16 metres upstream of a Scottish Water mains pipebridge (National Grid Reference: NS815795). To confirm, the work will be carried out on the southern eroded riverbank of Bonny Water. The site extends to 4,512 square metres.

The site is not covered by any natural heritage designations. In terms of cultural heritage designations, to the south of the site is the Forth and Clyde Canal which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and works in the vicinity of the Canal will in addition be subject to a separate Scheduled Ancient Monument application.

The site is constrained by a medium likelihood of river and surface water flood risk (1:200 year event). In terms of historic coal mining activity, the site lies within the 'development high risk zone'.

The planning application comprises of the strengthening of a 16 metre length of the southern Bonny Water riverbank using:

- 200 millimetre – 300 millimetre Rip Rap Stone
- Coir Matting
- Compacted Imported Granular Material
- Weaved Willow Installed at Rip Rap
- Topped with Geotextile Membrane to allow vegetation to re-establish on the riverbank.

In order to facilitate the construction phase of development, an ancillary 1km long temporary access track running from Bridge Street, Bonnybridge to the working area will also be required and forms part of the current planning application. The access road will be made from a rolled metal trackway system. This is less intrusive than that of a typical temporary rolled Type 1 access road and allows the land to recover much more quickly. It is also more efficient from an embedded carbon perspective.

### **2.3 Pre-Application Discussions**

Scottish Water wrote to Falkirk Council on 9 September 2020 regarding the proposal and the associated planning requirements. Brent Vivian (planning officer, Falkirk Council) responded on 1 October 2020 and confirmed that the proposal would not benefit from permitted development rights. Therefore, a planning application would be required for the works and it was recommended that a supporting statement was prepared to accompany the application.

### **3.0 PLANNING POLICY**

Under Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the proposed development stands to be determined against the policies contained within the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The adopted development plan covering the site is the Falkirk Local Development Plan (2020). The site lies within the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Buffer (PE05). Policy PE05 states that there will be the presumption against development within the buffer zones which could have an adverse impact on the setting of the Antonine Wall unless satisfactory mitigation actions can be taken to redress the adverse impacts. The work comprises of essential repair works to reinstate and protect the watercourse in order to ensure the security of the public water supply.

Policy PE22 The Water Environment of the LDP (2020) sets out support for proposals to improve the water environment including restoring the natural course of the watercourse. The proposal seeks to protect the riverbank from further erosion and seeks to be sympathetic to the area by using natural materials in the design of bank protection. Finished ground level will be similar to those currently.

Policy PE24 Flood Management of the LDP (2020) states that the proposed development will be assessed the principles established by SPP (2014) with the presumption against development within medium to high risk areas. Within the LDP (2020), the Council state the requirement for flood risk assessment for proposals in medium to high risk areas. In terms of

the current planning application, Falkirk Council confirmed on 10 October 2020 that a flood risk assessment would not be required in this instance. Scottish Water has engaged with SEPA through the separate CAR registration process.

#### **4.0 PLANNING ISSUES**

##### Environment

Through engagement with the Forth Rivers Trust, Scottish Water is committed to instructing an Environmental Ecological Clerk of Works (EECoW) during the riverbank protection works phase of development. The EECoW will guide the construction personnel with guidance about “on the spot” supervision of works to minimise downstream silt pollution impacting on identified species’ spawning areas. Consideration has also been paid to the timing of the construction works to further minimise the risk of disturbing species and spawning activity.

##### Construction Methodology

Care will be taken in planning access to the site utilising a metal roll out road to protect the land from damage from vehicular access, this also removes the need to install a temporary stone rolled Type 1 road. Natural materials have been incorporated into the design to allow this to blend into the riverbank when construction is complete. This is not a “hard engineered” solution.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The proposed development has taken into account the prevailing Falkirk Local Development Plan (2020) and is considered to comply with the pertinent policies. The proposal is required to ensure the security of the water mains pipebridge which forms part of the public water supply and which is located downstream of the application site. Consideration has been given to minimise adverse impacts of the work on the nearby Forth and Clyde Canal (Scheduled Ancient Monument) and on the local ecological interests downstream of the construction works.

**Additional Application Documents:**

*Drawings:*

602488-DRG-4001-0C - Planning Drawings Bonnybridge Location Plan; 602488-DRG-4002-0C - Planning Drawings Bonnybridge Site Plan; 602488-DRG-4003-0A - Planning Drawings Bonnybridge Sections

*Fee:*

£1,010.00 paid by BACS