



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Simon Hindson
Planner
The Highland Council
Planning and Development Service
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

via Scottish Government SEA Gateway - SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

18 August 2011
Our ref: SEA-00638

Dear Mr Hindson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: 00638 Screening – The Highland Council – Inverness City Centre Development Brief

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 01 August 2011 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We agree that this Development Brief is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Slighe Fodhraitidh, Pàirc Gnìomhachas Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Pheofharain,
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Fòn: 01349 865333 Facs: 01349 865609 Làrach-lìn: www.snh.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Brown on 01463 725155 (andrew.brown@snh.gov.uk) or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George S. Hogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George Hogg
Area Manager
South Highland
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cc SEPA (sea_gateway@sepa.org.uk)
Historic Scotland (hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
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**00638 SCREENING – THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL – INVERNESS CITY CENTRE
DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments and Additional Information
1.The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard , in particular to:			
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment.
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment. The Brief will be relevant in terms of promoting active travel and public transport in the city centre, but this is not considered to be significant.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment that existing environmental problems in the city centre are not likely to be significant.

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments and Additional Information
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -			
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment, given the nature of development briefs for an area such as this.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects;	Yes	Yes	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment, given the relative scale of the city centre.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects (<i>in UK international cases</i>);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical areas and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment, including the observation that development in the city centre has effects that go beyond the area itself (e.g. in regard to tourism and in

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			regard to its regional status for retail/commercial).
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:			
i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment insofar as the natural heritage is concerned.
ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment insofar as the natural heritage is concerned.
iii. intensive land-use;	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment insofar as the natural heritage is concerned.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment insofar as the natural heritage is concerned (NB: note connectivity between River Ness and River Moriston and Moray Firth SACs).