



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

Neil Huggan
Graduate Planner
The Highland Council
Planning and Development Service
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

14 July 2011
Our ref: 00629-SEA

Dear Mr Huggan

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: 00629 Screening – The Highland Council – Public Art Strategy Supplementary Guidance

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 07 July 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.

Our view in respect of each of these criteria is set out in the Annex attached. It is considered for these that they are unlikely to have significant environmental effects. We would therefore agree that the above plan 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.

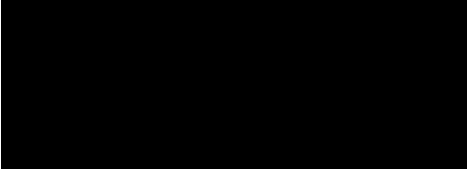


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If you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Brown on 01463 725155 (andrew.brown@snh.gov.uk) or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



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cc Scottish Government SEA Gateway (SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
SEPA (sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk)
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ANNEX

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
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment, whether existing or likely consequential environmental problems
(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

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
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
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment, including for areas where there is a greater concentration of larger scale development
(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, even allowing for the Highland-wide nature of this guidance
(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 inasmuch as this relates to the natural heritage
ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment inasmuch as this relates to the natural heritage

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
iii. intensive land-use;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment inasmuch as this relates to the natural heritage
(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 inasmuch as this relates to the natural heritage