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Our ref: AMN/23/395 AM  
Your ref:

15 May 2009

Dear Mr Farningham

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
The Highland Council, Supplementary Guidance: Education and New Residential  
Development  
Screening Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for The Highland Council's Supplementary Guidance on Education and New Residential Development, received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 8 May 2009. 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 Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. 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 this view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

My understanding from the screening report is that the document will provide guidance on developer contributions for education provision throughout the Highland area. In particular, the guidance may seek developer contributions for new residential development of 4 or more dwellings which are proposed in the catchment areas of schools which have inadequate capacity. I understand that this guidance may be replaced following the preparation of the Highland wide Local Development Plan.

I note that it is the Highland Council's view that the guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and in light of the information contained in the report I agree with this conclusion.

As you will be aware, however, it is the responsibility of Highland Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the guidance requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. Should you determine that an environmental assessment of the guidance is required, I draw your attention to the information requirements set out in Schedule 3 of the Act and to the Scottish Government SEA Tool Kit (available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0>).

Please note that this response is solely in the context of the SEA Act and our role as a Consultation Authority. Please do not hesitate to me on 0131 668 8924 should you wish to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair M<sup>c</sup>Kenzie  
Strategic Environmental Assessment Team Leader