



Scottish Natural Heritage

All of nature for all of Scotland

Mr Tim Stott
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Planning and Development Services
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Please ask for: Fraser Symonds
E-mail: fraser.symonds@snh.gov.uk
Your Ref: 00419 Screening - Highland
Council – Fort William Wider
Waterfront Study
Our Ref: B408958
Date: 22 July 2009

Dear Mr Stott

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005:
FORT WILLIAM WIDER WATERFRONT STUDY
SCREENING DETERMINATION**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 3 July 2009 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above project.

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

SNH agrees with the conclusion of the screening report and acknowledges that the above project (namely the preparation of a design masterplan) is likely to result in only locally significant environmental impacts and that the effects of the site allocation are currently being considered as part of the SEA of the local development plan.

We note that a number of the criteria in Table 1 are considered likely to have significant positive environmental effects but again these are local and minor.. SNH recognises that the allocation of this site in the local plan may stimulate further projects in the form of development proposals for the intertidal area which could have significant adverse environmental effects such as habitat loss and flooding but that the design masterplans should help to identify mitigation measures to ameliorate these impacts. It is noted that future development proposals will be subject to further development control processes and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Fort William Wider Waterfront Study should provide a useful framework for taking forward development planning within the study area.

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

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please contact me on 01397 704716 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk



Yours sincerely



Fraser Symonds, Operations Manager

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