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Our ref: AMN/23/416 AS  
Your ref:

31 July 2009

Dear Mr Stott

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Highland Council – Fort William Wider Waterfront Study  
Screening Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for Highland Council's Fort William Wider Waterfront Study, received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 3 July 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 our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

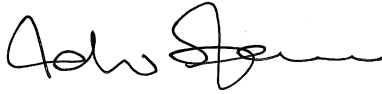
My understanding from the screening report is that the Fort William Wider Waterfront Study will develop supplementary planning design guidance for the area in question, leading to the production of two masterplans aimed at influencing and improving development proposals for the area. I note that the principal land allocation is subject to the ongoing SEA of the West Highland and Islands Local Plan and the any future application for the site will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment.

I note that the screening report considers that the Fort William Wider Waterfront Study is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. In light of the information contained within the screening report I can confirm that I agree with this view.

As you will be aware, however, it is the responsibility of Highland Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the study requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 668 8960 should you wish to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Stevenson  
Senior Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer