

Simon Hindson
Planner
The Highland Council
Planning and Development Service
Council Headquarters
Inverness
IN3 5NX

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Direct Line: [REDACTED]
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600

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11 February 2014

Dear Mr Hindson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
The Highland Council – Muirtown and South Kessock Development Brief
Screening Report

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for The Highland Council's Muirtown and South Kessock Development Brief received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 16 January 2014. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

I note from the screening report that the Council considers that, as the area covered by the development brief has been considered in the strategic environmental assessments of both the Highland-wide and Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plans there are unlikely to be significant additional environmental effects as a result of the guidance. The brief is intended to provide additional guidance to these plans and that the mitigation identified in these previous assessments will be brought through into the development brief. In light of the information contained within the screening report I agree that the brief in itself is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment.

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely

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Andrew Stevenson
Senior Heritage Management Officer (SEA)