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Dear Ms Webster

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Screening Report – The Highland Council – Sandown Development Brief**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for The Highland Council's Development Brief for Sandown received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 9 February 2012. 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.

My understanding from the screening report is that the Sandown Development Brief is intended to guide development at the site including consideration of various parameters including housing density, community facilities and transport infrastructure. The intention is to adopt the brief as statutory supplementary guidance as part of the Highland-wide LDP.

I note that it is The Highland Council's opinion that the development brief in itself is unlikely to have significant effects as the site in question has been recently subject to the SEA process as part of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. The site is also to be rolled forward as part of the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan which is currently being progressed. In light of this I am content to agree that significant effects on the historic environment are unlikely. However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of The Highland Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the plan 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

Andrew Stevenson
Senior Heritage Management Officer (SEA)