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Your ref: 00793 SCREENING

16 January 2013

Dear Mr Hindson

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005**  
**Highland Council - A strategic Masterplan for Phases 1 & 2, Nairn South**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the screening report for Highland Council's Strategic Masterplan for Phases 1 & 2, Nairn South, which was received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 19 December 2012. 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 above Act. 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 Masterplan is intended to offer guidance on the main considerations and developer requirements for the development of a site to the south of Nairn. The site has been allocated in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Masterplan will expand on the principles for development of the site which are set out in Policy 18 of the Highland-wide LDP. I note that the SEA of the site within the Highland-wide LDP identified mitigation relating to three undesignated archaeological sites within the allocation. This mitigation requires consideration of these sites to be addressed through the masterplanning of the site.

I note that it is Highland Council's opinion that, as the development areas in question has already been subject to SEA through the Highland-wide LDP, the Masterplan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. On the basis of the information provided, I agree that the Masterplan itself is unlikely to have significant additional effects on the historic environment. However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of Highland Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the strategy requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.



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

Yours sincerely



**Virginia Sharp**  
Senior Heritage Management Officer, SEA