



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Simon Hindson
Planner
The Highland Council
Planning and Development Service
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

Sent via Scottish Government SEA Gateway – SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

29 January 2014

Our ref: CNS/SEA/00900

Dear Mr Hindson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 00900 Screening – The Highland Council – Inshes and Raigmore Development Brief

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 16 January 2014 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

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

Our view in respect of each of these criteria is set out in the Annex attached. We would agree that the above plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of the matter having been assessed already through the SEAs for the Highland wide Local Development Plan and Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan, with mitigation having been included in these plans.

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

If you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Brown on 01463 725155 (andrew.brown@snh.gov.uk) or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

George Hogg
Unit Manager, South Highland Area

Scottish Natural Heritage, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, Ross-shire. IV15 9XB
Tel: 01349 865333 Website: www.snh.gov.uk

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Slighe Fodhraitidh, Pàirc Gnìomhachas Inbhir Pheofharain, Inbhir Pheofharain,
Siorrachd Rois. IV15 9XB
Fòn: 01349 865333 Làrach-lìn: www.snh.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

cc SEPA (sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk)
Historic Scotland (hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
SNH SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk)

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/ Unknown	SNH's Comments and Additional Information
1.The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard , in particular to:			
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	No	Yes	It is intended that this Development Brief will be adopted by the Council as Supplementary Guidance to the Highland wide LDP and will therefore carry the decision making weight of the development plan for future planning applications
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment. This Development Brief sits under the Highland wide LDP, which has established key principles and objectives
(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment for our interests relating to natural heritage and enjoyment
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	Yes	Yes	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment to the extent of our interests, noting also the issue included in Policy 7 of Highland wide LDP regarding active travel connectivity, in particular for the Raigmore Medical Campus, together with problem/opportunity of green infrastructure/network in

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely? (Responsible Authority's assessment)	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments and Additional Information
			and around this area
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection);	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment for our interests
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -			
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	Yes/No	Yes/No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment for our interests, noting the opportunity to consider existing and potential green infrastructure within the Development Brief area to link to the wider green network
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects;	No	No	We agree with the responsible authority's assessment for our interests
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects (<i>in UK international cases</i>)	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment for our interests
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment for our interests
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical areas and size of the population likely to be affected);	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment for our interests
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment for our

Schedule 2 Criteria	Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments and Additional Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or iii. intensive land-use 			interests
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	No	We agree with the Responsible Authority's assessment for our interests