

EIA Screening decision proforma

Business details			
Business reference number	[REDACTED TEXT]	Name	[REDACTED TEXT]
Main location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	EIA ID	2024-002

Proposed works details				
Location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	Type	Non improved / Semi natural / sensitive land	X
			Restructuring above thresholds	
Location name	[REDACTED TEXT] - NX/72319/53472		Drainage	
			Irrigation	
Description of proposed works	Land restructuring in field NX/72319/53472. Levelling areas of land which are not suitable for modern farm machinery to travel on to provide a surface that is suitable for silage. No drainage work to be undertaken and all boundaries are going to be left untouched. The groundworks would include stripping the soil back in small sections, levelling the rock below and replacing the soil back on top.			

Initial check (LPIS, PastMap etc)	comments
Are any significant earthworks proposed within 25m of a railway or classified road? (If yes refer customer to LA planning department, and reject screening application)	No, (a bit of infilling at map number 1 is proposed it may be just within 25 of road, applicant described proposals at site visit to [REDACTED TEXT] 4/4/24. It was considered as its infilling (as apposed to excavation near the road that could effect the road structure) and a good distance from the road the proposals described wont effect the road – so customer not referred to LA in this case).
Does the project involve creating new tracks, or any other action that would require planning permission or approval from LA planning, or fall under Forestry EIA regulations? (if yes refer customer to LA planning or FS, and reject screening application)	No
Does the proposed work involve removing earth/rock from farm unit? (If yes refer customer to LA planning and SEPA, and reject screening application)	No
Does the proposed work involve infilling depressions or hollows with material not from the immediate area? (If yes consult with SEPA)	No
Check designations and cross compliance layers, and PastMap. Are there monuments close to the proposed works? (If yes consult with HES for scheduled monuments, and LA archaeologist for non-scheduled monuments)	Nothing identified on LPIS – Pastmap had records at the edge of the FID beyond site of proposals (see email to HES on 11/4/24), hence to be sure we asked HES for comments.
Does the project involve any Semi-natural / uncultivated / sensitive areas, or potentially effect any habitat, landscape, or wildlife species (If yes, consult with NatureScot)	Yes
Does the project potentially effect the water environment, pose a pollution risk, or potentially have any other effects under SEPAs remit? (if yes consult with SEPA)	Yes

Check if proposals breach thresholds	
	N/A – non-improved/semi natural land involved.

Check EIA tracker for previous projects at location	
	The business has had several other projects outlined at the location on the EIA tracker.

Local Authority Planning consultation	
Our questions	NA
Reply	NA

Historic Environment Scotland / Local Authority Archaeologist consultation	
Our questions	HES – Emailed 11/04/2024 – Please consider the submitted application and let RPID know if there are any issues from your organisations remit that would suggest a full EIA is required.
Reply	HES – Emailed 22/04/2024 – Our Screening opinion - We have no comments to make on the requirement or otherwise for an EIA for this proposed development. Our advice - There are no designated historic environment assets for our interests within the area affected by the proposals.

NatureScot consultation	
Our questions	NatureScot – Joint Site Visit 04/04/2024 – to consider the proposals on the ground and follow up with a screening opinion to RPID if there are any issues from the organisations remit that would suggest a full EIA is required.
Reply	NatureScot – Email 30/05/2024 - Summary Position: The field for the proposed restructuring contains a mosaic of habitat types including “uncultivated” species rich grassland, rocky outcrops (which create distinctive landscape features), areas of scrub with trees and areas of intensively managed grassland. The presence of the areas of “uncultivated” land within this field necessitates an Environmental Statement being required. Our advice to RPID is therefore, that an Environmental Statement needs to be prepared for this land. We would be happy to advise in more detail on the Scope of an Environmental Statement if requested.

SEPA consultation	
Our questions	SEPA – Emailed 11/04/2024 – Please consider the submitted application and let RPID know if there are any issues from your organisations remit that would suggest a full EIA is required.
Reply	SEPA – Email 19/04/2024 - Following the referral from RPID on 27 February and then the 11 March regarding on going activities at [REDACTED TEXT], two SEPA officer’s attended the site and met with the farmer. The farmer showed them the field where the next phase of works is to be carried out. This is set back from the top of a steep bank and should not impeach on the stability of the riverbank ensuring the guidance is followed. SEPA will be writing to farmer summarising the site visit, providing the required guidance and information for future works. No further action is required.

Scottish Forestry consultation	
Our questions	NA
Reply	NA

Outcome

Full EIA required?	YES/NO		
Notes	We have carefully considered the application and have concluded that the proposed work could have a significant effect on the environment and an Environmental Impact Assessment report will be required to consider the proposal further. This is because: - 1) The site contains semi-natural/uncultivated areas - at inspection the consultees noted plants indicating species rich areas within the field(s). A survey during the growing season is therefore required to quantify the potential environmental impact. 2) The site has significant rocky outcrops - at inspection the consultees confirmed these have significant landscape and geological interest. 3) Protected wildlife species were noted as being active on the site e.g. badgers.		
Deciding officer	[REDACTED TEXT]	Countersigning officer	[REDACTED TEXT]
Date	10/07/2024	Date	10/07/2024

Acronyms:

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
FS Forestry Scotland
HES Historic Environment Scotland
LA Local Authority
LPIS Land Parcel Identification System
SEPA Scottish Environmental Protection Agency