

EIA Screening decision proforma

Business details			
Business reference number	[REDACTED TEXT]	Name	[REDACTED TEXT]
Main location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	EIA ID	2024-003

Proposed works details				
Location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	Type	Non improved / Semi natural / sensitive land	X
			Restructuring above thresholds	
Location name	[REDACTED TEXT]		Drainage	
			Irrigation	
Description of proposed works	The business plans to level knowes in NX/87470/56775. This will involve removing the topsoil, breaking up the rock and using it to infill depressions in the field. Open drains would be either piped, or filled with crushed rock. The topsoil will then be replaced, and the field brought into more intensive use, including the application of slurry and cutting for forage.			

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
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)	No - but HES contacted to confirm.
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
The proposals are for restructuring on uncultivated and semi-natural land to allow for more intensive agriculture, no minimum threshold applies.

Check EIA tracker for previous projects at location

No previous EIA cases found.	
Local Authority Planning consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	
Historic Environment Scotland / Local Authority Archaeologist consultation	
Our questions	23/02/24 - Are any issues under the HES remit that would suggest a full EIA is required?
Reply	HES e-mail 13/03/24 - We have no comments to make on the need or otherwise for Environmental Impact Assessment for this project.
NatureScot consultation	
Our questions	22/02/24 – Can you confirm that the land is semi-natural, and provide opinion on the screening application?
Reply	NatureScot verbal comments to SGRPID at joint site visit 04/04/24 - 1) The site is semi-natural/uncultivated - at inspection plants were noted indicating species rich areas within the field. Therefore, a survey during the growing season is required to quantify the potential environmental impact. 2) The site has significant granite knowes which have significant landscape and geological interest. 3) Due to points 1 and 2, NatureScot recommend the applicant needs to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment report to allow the proposals to be considered fully.
SEPA consultation	
Our questions	23/02/24 – Summary of screening application sent to SEPA, and they were asked “are any issues under the SEPA remit that would suggest a full EIA is required?” 08/03/24 – At a site visit on 04/03/24 the applicant verbally informed us they intend to fill some open drains with broken stone and cover with soil, SGRPID asked SEPA “does this change the SEPA position?”
Reply	SEPA final response by e-mail 11/03/24 – What you have suggested the applicant is implying to do with small burns and watercourses is termed by SEPA as culverting for land gain which is a licensable activity under the controlled activities regulations. Although it is a licensable activity under CAR is very unlikely SEPA would authorise the activity given it will reduce biodiversity within the area, the drain/culvert will be shallow meaning slurry applications to the land will be very high risk for environmental pollution. The other issue to consider is GBR 18 (h)(iii), he would need to ensure that following creation of the seed bed if he intends apply slurry to this field in future the average depth of soil across the field and on top of the culvert (if authorised) is a minimum of 40cm - if it overlies fissured rock or gravel as per GBR 18 (h)(iii). If these are the proposals then SEPA would need to be fully involved due to environmental impact it could have on natural watercourse, high pollution risk and reduction in biodiversity along an open stretch of water, therefore the damage to the environmental risk is high.
Scottish Forestry consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	

Outcome			
Full EIA required?	YES		
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 - 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) Consultees identified significant risk of pollution to surface water associated with the infilling of the open drains and potential soil depth issues under GBR 18.		
Deciding officer	[REDACTED TEXT]	Countersigning officer	[REDACTED TEXT]
Date	10/04/24	Date	10/04/24

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