

Application for an Environmental Impact Assessment
(EIA) Screening Decision



For official use only

Sequential number:

Date application received:

Scottish Government
SGRPID Kirkwall Office

02 MAY 2024

RECEIVED

Section 1 – Business details

Business name

Business address

Postcode

Contact name

Telephone number

Mobile number

Email

Main Location Code (MLC)

Business Reference Number (BRN)

Do I need to complete this form?

A: For projects that involve the use of uncultivated land* or semi-natural areas* for more intensive agricultural purposes:

You should complete **sections 1, 2, 3a, 4, 5, and 7** of this form.

B: For projects that involve restructuring of rural land holdings on agricultural land:

You should complete **sections 1, 2, 3b, 4, 5 and 7** of this form if you are planning any of the following work on agricultural land in Scotland;

Activity	Outside a sensitive area	Within a sensitive area **
Add or remove any field boundary (e.g. fences etc)	6 km or more	Always
Removing hedge or drystone dyke	0.5 km	Always
Move earth, rock or any other material	5,000 m ³	Always
Restructuring an area greater than	200 ha	Always

Please note that the thresholds apply to the total area of land where the work is to take place even if it is undertaken bit-by-bit over one or several seasons, or if it involves different types of work. A project may involve more than one type of restructuring referred to in the table above. If any of the elements of the restructuring is above the threshold, the entire project is subject to the screening procedures, and all elements should be included in this application.

C: For projects that involve new Irrigation and/or new Drainage:

For Irrigation

- **If you are extracting water to irrigate crops with mobile equipment** you should contact SEPA to obtain an extraction licence and don't need to complete this form.
- **If you are proposing to build fixed infrastructure** for example a water storage lagoon with fixed permanent pumps and pipes, you should first find out if you need planning permission from the Local Authority. If you do, then you do not need to complete this form - apply to the Local Authority for Planning permission and SEPA for an abstraction licence. If your proposals don't require planning permission from the local authority and include fixed equipment/water storage site, then you do need to complete **section 1, 2, 3c, 4, 5 and 7** of this form in addition to contacting SEPA for an abstraction licence.

For Drainage

- Maintenance of existing drainage on improved/ intensively managed land does not require this form to be submitted. If the land is reverting to an unimproved/seminatural* state fill in **section 1, 2, 3c, 4, 5 and 7** of this form. If you propose to carry out new drainage in a sensitive** area you need to fill in **section 1, 2, 3c, 4, 5 and 7** of this form.
- If you propose to carry out new drainage outside a sensitive** area above 1 ha, you need to fill in **section 1, 2, 3c, 4, 5** of this form.

**SGRPID consider land that has not been improved (e.g. spraying, liming, ploughing, draining, and reseeded such areas) or intensively farmed for around 15 years to fall into this category, contact us for more guidance if you're unsure.*

***Sensitive areas are: - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), National Scenic Area (NSA) or land with a Nature Conservation order.*

Section 2 – Project description and potential impacts

Please provide a description of your whole project, and a map. To ensure these include all the necessary information a check list has been provided below, please ensure that each section has been included in your report on page 4, otherwise your application risks being rejected.

Project Description;

- An overview of the project ☒
- A description of the environmental sensitivity of the geographic area of the project ☐
- Is the proposed work on common land? ☐
- A detailed map of the project and surrounding area ☒
- Is there any other information relevant to this application (e.g. access rights, core paths etc) ☐

Likely environmental effect of the proposed changes covering;

- Soil ☐
- Land ☒
- Water ☐
- Biodiversity/habitats ☒
- Historical, cultural and/or archaeological considerations ☐
- Include any significant features listed above on your project map (e.g. badger sett, scheduled ancient monuments etc) ☐

If applicable, the report can include measures which are being put in place to avoid or prevent any likely significant adverse effects from the project.

Project description and potential impacts

Land has been taken into ownership in 2024. The land has previously been used for silage and hay production, livestock grazing and potato growing. The last agricultural activity that we have local records for was for silage cutting which took place in 2010 to 2012. Since then the land has been left fallow and has resulted in a very thick mat of dead vegetation being left. The proposals are to remove the dead matt through mulching and then reseed with an agricultural grass mix. This would then allow grazing to be introduced and silage and hay to be secured in years after that.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Section 3a – Semi-natural areas - site details and proposed operations:

Site description. (Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)

If different from Main Location

Name of Farm: [REDACTED]

Location code: part of [REDACTED]

For example:

The field was previously improved grassland but has reverted to native grasses and rushes. Enclosed by dykes and wire fence. It has a failing drainage system. Gorse / scrub is found at corners.

Please complete the table below.

Land Parcel Identifier	Letter of proposed works on map	Area of proposed work (ha)	Description of the proposed work (mark exact area of project on map referred to in section 3a).
AB/12345/12345	a	15	<i>Example: Spraying off current vegetation, plough, lime, reseed with modern grass mix</i>
ND/48136/93554	A	1.07ha	Mowing down and reseeding this field to remove the dead matt of unused vegetation. Stock fencing will be erected to allow for improved management and protection of the burn on the south side.
ND/48309/93584	B	2.34ha	Mowing down and reseeding this field to remove the dead matt of unused vegetation. Stock fencing will be erected to allow for improved management and protection of the burn on the south side. There has been a length of plastic drainage pipe installed to a collapsed stone drain which is allowing a soft area to be dried out.
ND/48265/93694	C	2.81ha	Mowing down and reseeding this field to remove the dead matt of unused vegetation. Stock fencing will be erected to allow for improved management and protection of the ditch on the north side. Approximately 100m of plastic piping would be installed to join a burst stone drain to the ditch to dry out two soft areas on the western side of the field.

* Please note that 1 hectare = 2.471 acres; and 1 acre = 0.405 ha

If necessary, please tick this box and continue on a separate sheet

☐

Section 3b – Restructuring - site details and proposed operations:

Site description. (Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)	If different from Main Location Name of Farm:
	Location code:
	For example: <i>The site covers 12 fields of improved grassland pasture, with some drystone dykes but mostly wire fence. It has maintained tile drains. Gorse / scrub is found at corners.</i>

Please complete the table below.

Land Parcel Identifier	Letter of proposed works on map	Length, width, and depth (as applicable) of proposed work (m)	Volume of material to be distributed (m ³) (if applicable)	Description of the proposed work (mark exact area of project on map referred to in section 3a).
AB/12345/12345	A	50 m x 5 m x 1 m	250 m ³	Example: a – strip back topsoil, break and spread rock, replace soil and grade level, and reseed.
	B	750 m	n/a	Example b – Demolish 750 m of dilapidated dyke, and reuse stone to repair dykes elsewhere on holding.

If necessary, please tick this box and continue on a separate sheet ☐

Section 3c – Drainage and irrigation - Site details and proposed operations:

Site description. (Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)	If different from Main Location Name of Farm:
	Location code: For example: <i>The site is part of an existing arable field, cropped annually.</i>

Please complete the table below.

Land Parcel Identifier	Letter of proposed works on map	Area to be drained / irrigated (ha)	Description of the proposed work (mark exact area of project on map referred to in section 3a).
AB/12345/12345	a	4	Example – Insert new piped drainage system (125 mm leader, 80 mm spurs 10 m average spacing) running to nearby bum to lower the water table to allow greater range of cropping. Map of layout included separately.

* Please note that 1 hectare = 2.471 acres; and 1 acre = 0.405 ha

If necessary, please tick this box and continue on a separate sheet

☐

Section 4 – Changes to Management

Complete this section if you are proposing to change how you manage this land. Please provide information about how all the land in question has been managed in the past. You should cover the last 15 years if possible and provide information for **ALL** fields affected by your proposed project.

LPID	Past management	Proposed management
AB/12345/12345	<i>Example: Sheep grazing field, average stocking 40 head. Not cut for forage. Last limed and reseeded in 2001. Currently receives 125 kg/ha compound fertiliser annually.</i>	<i>Example: Silage field, cut 3 times per year. Intensive slurry and compound fertiliser. Field will be limed and reseeded every 5 years.</i>
ND/48136/93554	Recently purchased permanent grassland which has not been used in an agricultural sense for a number of years. This was last used for the previous owners family member to grow potatoes – possibly within the last 10 to 12 years. Prior to that cereal crops were grown there.	Remove matted grasses and reseed and erect stock fences.
ND/48309/93584	Recently purchased permanent grassland which has not been used in an agricultural sense for a number of years. This was last used for silage production within the last 10 or 12 year by [REDACTED]. Prior to this is has supported forage production and grazing animals in the past.	Remove matted grasses and reseed and erect stock fences.
ND/48265/93694	Recently purchased permanent grassland which has not been used in an agricultural sense for a number of years. Has supported forage production and grazing animals in the past. The western area that I have cut this Spring is drier and has supported cropping in the past.	Remove matted grasses and reseed and erect stock fences.

Section 5 – How we use your information



How we use your information: We will use the information provided on the application form, including your contact details, for the purpose of delivering and/or improving our administration of the Schemes and services we offer. This may include sending you voluntary customer satisfaction surveys from time to time to see how we are doing. We take our responsibilities for the way we store, secure and use your personal information seriously, and always seek to respect your privacy and to meet our legal obligations. These obligations include the General Data Protection Regulation, the UK Data Protection Act, and other regulations and legislation relating to privacy and communications. To see details on how we use your information and who we share your information with, please see our privacy policy located at: [https:// www.ruralpayments.org/privacy-policy/](https://www.ruralpayments.org/privacy-policy/) or available in paper form from your area office. Our Privacy Policy explains the purposes for which we use personal data and the legal basis for that use. It explains our responsibilities for collecting data and what happens if you fail to provide data we need or provide incorrect data. We set out the categories of data we collect and how we acquire it, especially in those cases where it may come from another party. The Privacy Policy also sets out our approach to sharing data and gives information about the organisations with whom we share data and why we do so. Finally, we advise you of your various rights and how to exercise them. If you are providing information to us on behalf of someone else (for example, as an agent representing a beneficiary), you are advised to draw this section of the Guidance and the Privacy Policy to the attention of any individual whose data is being processed. This is in order to help you fulfil your obligations under data protection legislation towards your clients or those whom you represent.

Section 6 – Declaration

Applicants should note that it is an offence to provide false information (knowingly or recklessly) to obtain a screening decision.

- I understand that I will be legally obliged to comply with any decision granted in respect of this application and conditions attached to it.
- I have read the guidance on The Agriculture, Land Drainage and Irrigation Projects (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 available on [Rural Payments and Services](#).
- I declare that the information given in my application is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a screening decision in accordance with these particulars.

APPLICANT

Signature

Name
(Block Capitals)

Status of person
signing

(For example, Director, company secretary, or other duly authorised officer)

Agent ID number
(if applicable)

Date

02 / 05 / 2024

IMPORTANT – CHECK LIST

- ☐ Answered all the questions.
- ☐ If necessary, attached any separate sheet(s) required.

If we consider that you have not supplied sufficient information to make a screening decision, we will request the additional information in writing. If you do not supply the required information then the application will be rejected.