

# EIA Screening decision proforma

Business details			
Business reference number	[REDACTED TEXT]	Name	[REDACTED TEXT]
Main location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	EIA ID	2023-017

Proposed works details				
Location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	Type	Non improved / Semi natural / sensitive land	X
			Restructuring above thresholds	X
Location name	[REDACTED TEXT]		Drainage	
			Irrigation	
Description of proposed works	Knowes would be removed individually by stripping back the topsoil and levelling out the rock. I absolutely am not intending to strip the topsoil off large areas for a prolonged time. No rock will be moved any distance, the knowe will just be levelled enough to allow modern mowers to travel over them without breakages and soil contamination. The total surface area of the knowes is 9800 square meters and I would guess that the average depth of digging needed would be 1 metre, so the volume of material needing moved would be in the region of 9800 cubic metres.			

Initial check (LPIS, PastMap etc)	comments
Are any significant earthworks proposed within 25m of a railway or classified road? (If yes <b>refer customer to LA planning department, and reject screening application</b> )	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 <b>refer customer to LA planning or FS, and reject screening application</b> )	No
Does the proposed work involve removing earth/rock from farm unit? (If yes <b>refer customer to LA planning and SEPA, and reject screening application</b> )	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 Issues
Does the project involve any Semi-natural / uncultivated / sensitive areas, or potentially effect any habitat, landscape, or wildlife species (If yes, consult with NatureScot)	NS raised concerns that the knowes were semi-natural & uncultivated and may have an impact on both habitats and wildlife species. Consultations were therefore held and followed up with a site visit.
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)	No

Check if proposals breach thresholds

<b>Check EIA tracker for previous projects at location</b>	

<b>Local Authority Planning consultation</b>	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

<b>Historic Environment Scotland / Local Authority Archaeologist consultation</b>	
Our questions	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	We have reviewed the information received and consider the proposals unlikely to have impacts on our historic environment interests of a level that would require consideration through the EIA process as the proposals would not be likely to have a significant impact on the site or setting of any assets within our interests.

<b>NatureScot consultation</b>	
Our questions	I would be grateful if you could consider and let me know if there are any issues from your organisations remit that would suggest a full EIA is required.
Reply	Following an initial response from NS a meeting was held between NS and RPID to discuss the case which was followed up with a site visit. Concerns initially raised by NS were considered and it was decided that a full EIA was not required.

<b>SEPA consultation</b>	
Our questions	I would be grateful if you could consider and let me know if there are any issues from your organisations remit that would suggest a full EIA is required.
Reply	<p>This proposal is very minor in terms of this type of work however it would be beneficial to know exactly what the farmer is intending to do with the material he removes. There is no indication in the proposal the material extracted will stay on site or be removed. Has he clarified this with you or is there any more detail in his application? [REDACTED TEXT] response:</p> <p>We have seen quite a few of these operations being carried out and the extracted material stays within the field. When only doing knowes (as in this case) they strip the topsoil then effectively make a trench around the knowe to pull the stone/broken rock into before replacing the topsoil. If it is a big knowe we have seen some use extracted stone to fill in hollows in the same field. The wording from the application below is maybe not as clear as it could be, but I am relatively relaxed that this is what is meant and can make sure that is what we expect when we respond to the applicant.</p> <p><i>“These knowes would be removed individually by stripping back the topsoil and levelling out the rock..... No rock will be moved any distance.”</i></p>

<b>Scottish Forestry consultation</b>	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

<b>Outcome</b>	
Full EIA required?	NO

<b>Notes</b>	RPID checks of LIPIS show no designated sites are affected, SEPA have no concerns if the rock is not moved off site, HES do not think an EIA is required for Historic interests and the response from Nature Scot and our actions following that are explained above. Therefore, the farmer will be informed he can proceed with his project without doing a full EIA.		
<b>Deciding officer</b>	[REDACTED TEXT]	<b>Countersigning officer</b>	[REDACTED TEXT]
<b>Date</b>	29/11/2023	<b>Date</b>	11/12/23

**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