

Application for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Decision



For official use only

Sequential number:

Date application received:

Scottish Government
RPID Dumfries

LB - 9 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

SEE ATTACHED

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)

The semi-natural areas of this project were previously improved grassland but as a result of a failing drainage system due to mains water pipe it has reverted in parts to weed grasses and rushes. The field perimeters are a combination of drystone dykes and wire fences, a few small trees have started to grow in one of the fields

If different from Main Location

Name of Farm

Location code:

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	Example: Spraying off current vegetation, plough, lime, reseed with modern grass mix
NX/78345/49121		5.88	Once drainage and restructuring completed Spray off, plough or cultivate, lime and reseed with modern grass mix remove dyke + unplanted trees
NX/7883/49621		21	Spray off, plough/cultivate, lime and reseed with modern grass mix in keeping with the rest of the field
NX/78587/49391		12.6	Once drainage and restructuring complete, spray off, reseed with modern grass mix

* 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)

The site covers 3 fields of improved grassland, it has tiled drains, some of the fields have areas that have been cut for silage

If different from Main Location

Name of Farm:
[REDACTED]

Location code:
[REDACTED]

For example:
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.

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 (m³) (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 m³	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.
NX/78587/49391 126		SEE ATTACHED		
NX/78345/49121 NX/78345/49121 588				

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

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

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

These sites have a failing drainage system that needs repaired and updated, Grass grown for grazing and silage

If different from Main Location

Name

Location code

For example:

The site is part of an existing arable field, cropped annually.

Complete the table below.

Parcel number	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).
45/12345	a	4	Example – Insert new piped drainage system (125 mm leader, 80 mm spurs 10 m average spacing) running to nearby burn to lower the water table to allow greater range of cropping. Map of layout included separately.
37/49391 2.6			SEE ATTACHED
45/49121 88			
23/49621 1			

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



on 4 – Changes to Management

re 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 cover the last 15 years if possible and provide information for **ALL** fields affected by your proposed project.

	Past management	Proposed management
45/12345	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.	Example: Silage field, cut 3 times per year. Intensive slurry and compound fertiliser. Field will be limed and reseeded every 5 years.
87/49391 2.6	grazed by cattle and sheep, not cut for silage currently spread with slurry and 150 kg/ha fertilizer	Silage field, cut 3 times per year, spread slurry + fertilizer, lime + reseed every 5 years
33/49621 21	Majority of field cut for silage annually, grazing of cattle and sheep. reseeded Reseeded in 2020, lime spread 175kg/ha spread annually of fertilizer	Continue with same practice including new drained area, silage x3, spread with slurry and fertilizer
8345/49121 5.88	grazed by cattle and sheep, not cut for forage	Silage field, cut 3 times per year, spread slurry + fertilizer, lime and reseed every 5 years

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

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Name
(Block Capitals)

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Status of person
signing

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

Agent ID number
(if applicable)

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Date

2	7	1	0	4	1	2	0	2	4
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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.

Project description and potential impacts

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The project is at [REDACTED]

The project covers 3 fields:

1. NX/78587/49391 12.6 Hectares
2. NX/78833/49621 21 Hectares
3. NX/78345/49121 5.88 Hectares perimeter

The main objective of this project is to repair old tiled drains which have been failing since a mains water pipe was run through the fields and insert new drains where required.

We would like to remove a stretch of dyke between fields NX/78345/49121 and NX/78587/49391 which is in a state of disrepair and use the stones to repair two other dykes that require attention within the project.

There are a couple of spots in two of the fields where a bit of rock is visible or a small knove that needs softened every so slightly to allow tractors and machinery to pass over safely.

In field NX/78345/49121 there are some small unplanted trees that have grown that we would like to remove.

Once the project is complete it will be our intention to make silage on these fields for most of the summer season and graze our youngstock later in the year with some ewes or lambs grazing through the winter months.

The extra silage ground is needed to help feed our anaerobic digester which will help us reach our carbon reduction pledge set out by our milk buyer and are in line with government targets.

The environmental sensitivity of the area will include some stresses produced by the above works, these include:

1. Disturbance of soil surfaces
2. Removal of Plant Cover
3. Possible changes of surface hydrology
4. Potential disruption to natural habitats
5. Atmospheric emissions from on site plant

The work proposed is on common land

There are no core paths on the fields in the plan

Environmental effect

The soil covering of the land will be replaced as it was or enhanced in areas of particularly shallow soils.

The land will be well drained with the ability to be more productive

Water will remain unchanged with a small stream running at the fence line of one field

There should be very little impact on the habitats of the area

I am not aware of any historical or archaeological considerations on the site or any ancient monuments.

Map of site

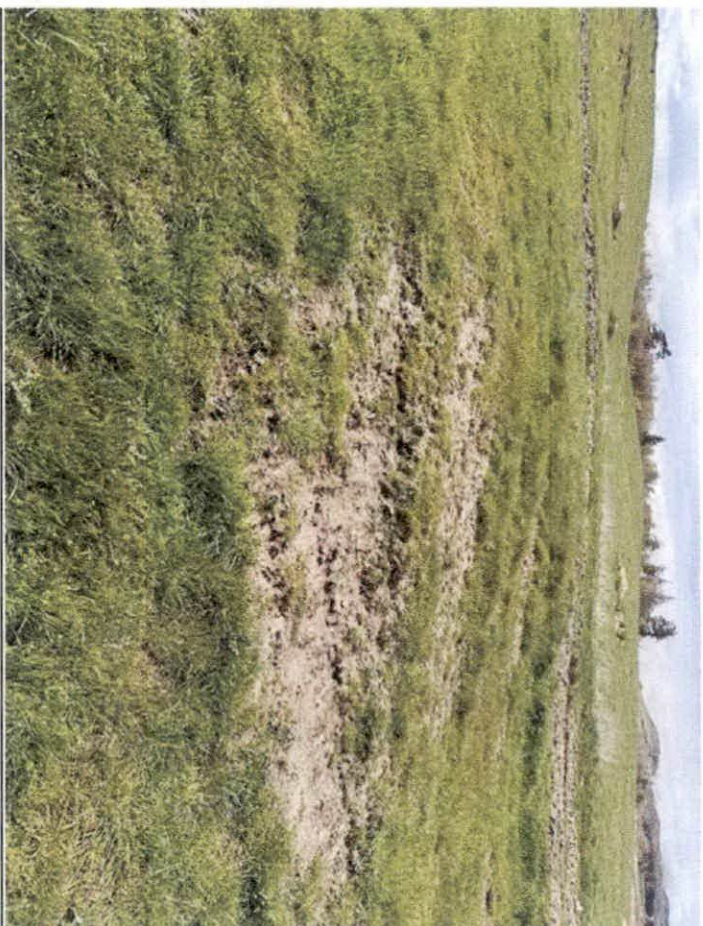


Table of proposed operations

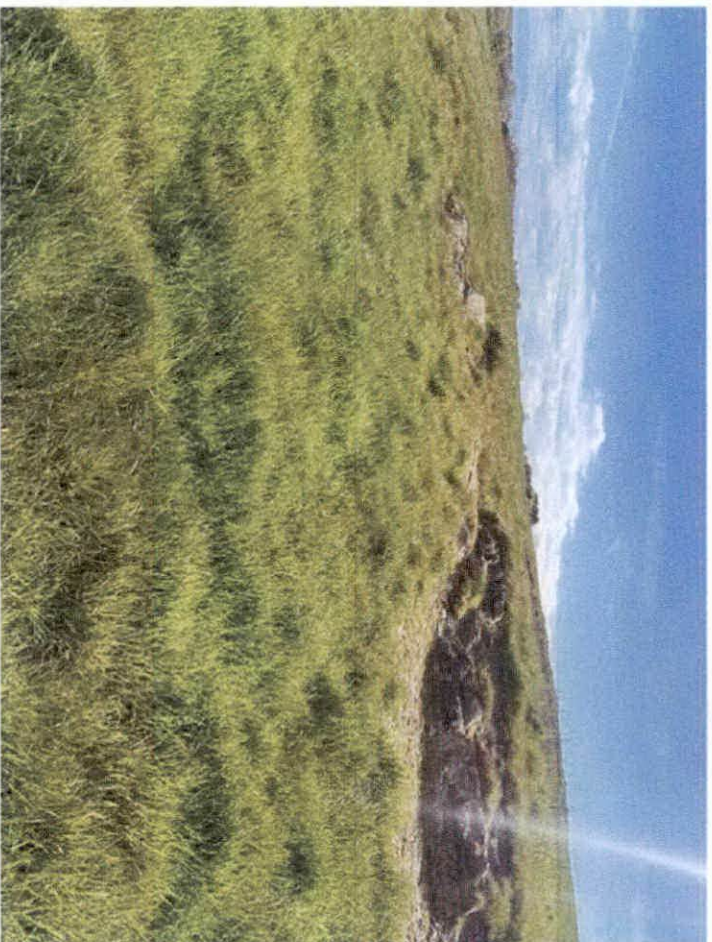
Restructuring

Field	Map ID	Description	Dimensions (M)	Area	Description
NX/78587/49391	A	Knowe	7 x 3 x 1	21m3	Strip back top soil, grade, replace soil and reseed
NX/78587/49391	B	Knowe	25 x 7 x 2	350m3	Strip back top soil, break and spread rock, grade level, replace soil and reseed
NX/78587/49391	C	Knowe	7 x 3 x 0.5	10.5m3	Strip back top soil, break and spread rock, grade level, replace soil and reseed
NX/78587/49391 - NX/78345/49121	D	Dyke	101	----	Demolish 101m of dilapidated dyke, reuse stones to repair dykes elsewhere on holding

Field	Map ID	Description	Dimensions (M)	Area	Description
NX/78345/49121	E	Knowe	16 x 6 x 2	192m3	Strip back top soil, break and spread rock, grade level, replace soil and reseed
NX/78345/49121	F	Area of Rock	3 x 2 x 0.5	3m3	Strip back top soil, break and spread rock, grade level, replace soil and reseed
NX/78345/49121	G	Area of Rock	2 x 2 x 0.5	2m2	Strip back top soil, break and spread rock, grade level, replace soil and reseed
NX/78345/49121	H	Trees	Individuals		We would like to remove
NX/78345/49121	I	Trees	Cluster		We would like to remove



A



B

D



E



H



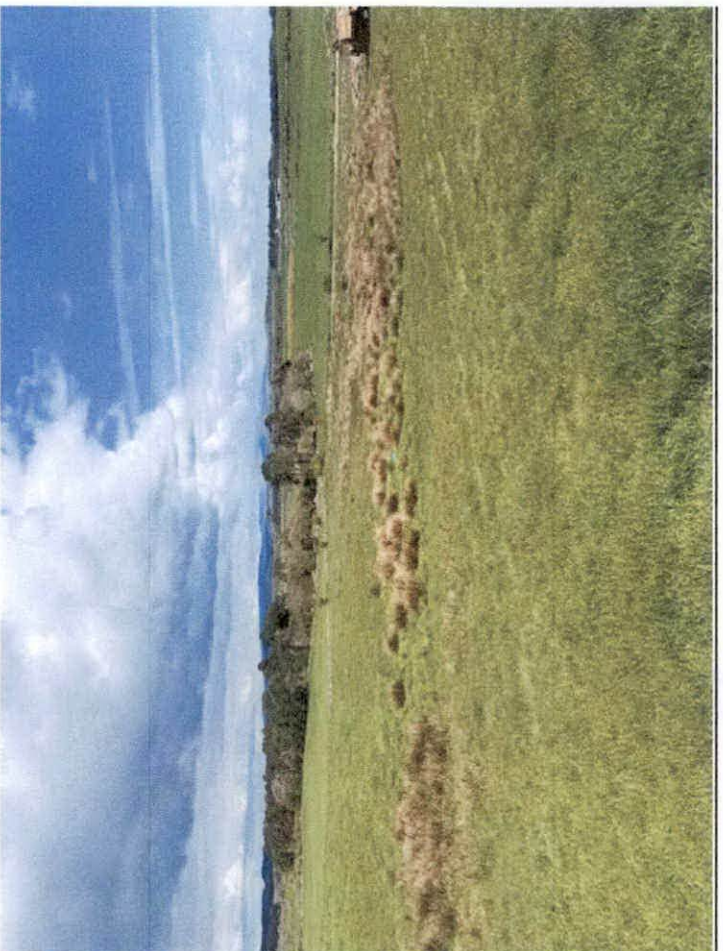
Table of Proposed operations

Drainage

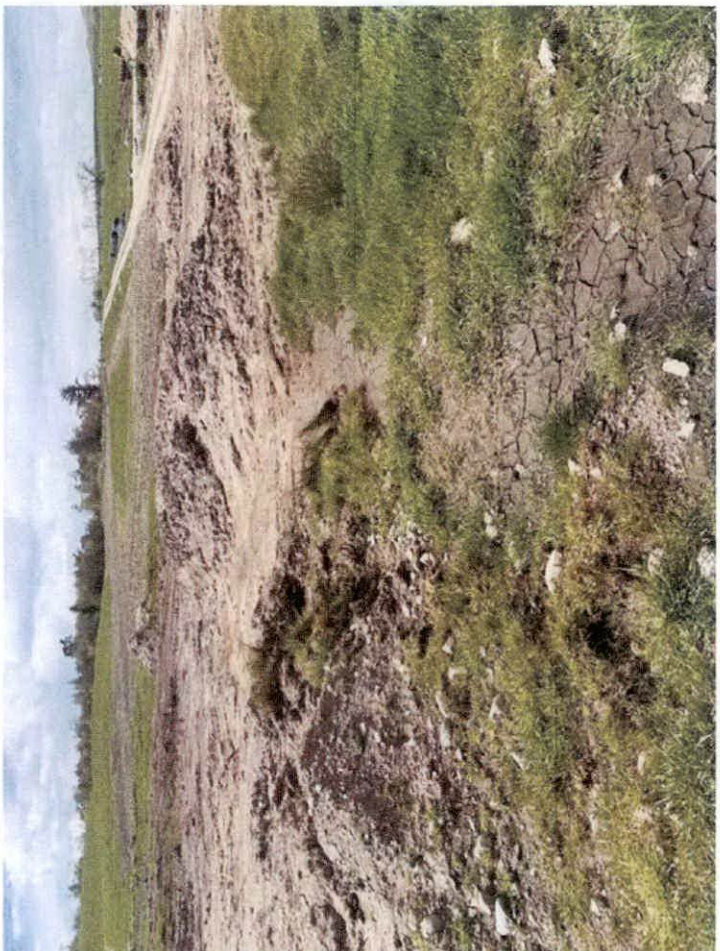
	Map ID	Area (Ha)	Description
NX/78587/49391	J	1.5	Insert new drainage system 125mm leader, 80mm spurs 8m spacing, joining into existing drainage network
NX/78587/49391	K	0.25	Insert new drainage system 125mm leader, 80mm spurs 8m spacing, joining into existing drainage network
NX/78587/49391	L	0.25	Insert new drainage system 125mm leader, 80mm spurs 8m spacing, joining into existing drainage network

	Map ID	Area	Description
NX/78345/49121	Whole Field	5.88 Ha	Insert new drainage system 125mm leader, 80mm spurs 8m spacing, joining into existing drainage network

J



K



L

