

# EIA Screening decision proforma

Business details			
Business reference number	[REDACTED TEXT]	Name	[REDACTED TEXT]
Main location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	EIA ID	2024-014

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 application is for the continued use of a borrow-pit on the farm holding. The material extracted is for the maintenance of tracks around the Holding.  The borrow pit is located in field NX/63994/81424 at [REDACTED TEXT] holding [REDACTED TEXT] at the southern part of the holding, West of the [REDACTED TEXT] unit.			

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 <b>consult with SEPA</b> )	No
Check designations and cross compliance layers, and PastMap. Are there monuments close to the proposed works? (If yes <b>consult with HES for scheduled monuments, and LA archaeologist for non-scheduled monuments</b> )	Yes – Nothing on LPIS, but pastmap indicates and unscheduled monument (MDG16077) – HES/LA consulted
Does the project involve any Semi-natural / uncultivated / sensitive areas, or potentially effect any habitat, landscape, or wildlife species (If yes, <b>consult with NatureScot</b> )	Yes – Site checks carried out on 09/07 determined, no sensitive species noted at the visit mainly grass sward well grazed. NS consulted to agree with findings
Does the project potentially effect the water environment, pose a pollution risk, or potentially have any other effects under SEPAs remit? (if yes <b>consult with SEPA</b> )	No

Check if proposals breach thresholds
Under 5000 m3 however the land is uncultivated

Check EIA tracker for previous projects at location
No previous projects are present on the tracker.

Local Authority Planning consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

Historic Environment Scotland / Local Authority Archaeologist consultation	
Our questions	<p>LA Archaeologist – emailed 31/07/2024 HES – emailed 31/07/2024</p> <p>Can you confirm if there is any archaeology of concern within the proposed project area - please would your organisations consider if a full EIA be required.</p> <p>Note that on page 5 &amp; 6 of the document it has been noted Pastmap is showing a Historic Environment Record (MDG16077) / Canmore reference (177724). The borrow pit used for the project sits within the southern end of this outlined area. This appears to be recorded as a Field system.</p> <p>I note that at the site visit RPID found nothing clearly visible on the ground and Aerial Photography also shows nothing clearly visible.</p>
Reply	<p>LA Archaeologist – emailed 31/07/2024 I can confirm that there are <u>no upstanding remains of the former field system</u>, which is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1854. I have checked Scottish Government LiDAR in addition to recent aerial imagery.</p> <p>The proposed borrow pit does not affect any other known assets. I attach a copy of the Council's HER mapping of the area to confirm, as this includes features that are not depicted on public-facing websites.</p> <p>HES – emailed 07/08/2024 Our Screening opinion - <u>We have no comments to make on the requirement or otherwise for an EIA for this proposed development for our interests.</u></p> <p>You must seek information and advice on impacts on unscheduled archaeology from Dumfries and Galloway Council's archaeological advisor. They will be able to provide advice on the Brown Knowe, Trolane (Canmore ID: 177724). Their conservation advisors will also be able to offer advice on the category B- and C-listed buildings and conservation areas.</p>

NatureScot consultation	
Our questions	<p>NatureScot – emailed – 15/08/2024 [REDACTED TEXT] Screening Application - for continued use of the borrowpit Application - The application is for the continued use of a borrow-pit on the farm holding. The material extracted is for the maintenance of tracks around the Holding. The borrow pit is located in field NX/63994/81424 at [REDACTED TEXT] at the southern part of the holding, West of the [REDACTED TEXT] unit.</p> <p>Screening We have screened the borrow pit in line with our site visit. This requires screening as it is on uncultivated/semi natural land. We are content that the borrow pit is already open/in use and no important species were found (non-flowering generally well grazed grasses). The unscheduled monument (MDG16077) has been noted and HES/LA Archaeology have no concerns.</p> <p>Following the email a discussion was had with NatureScot, we asked if the borrow pit should be subject to screening and if so what their opinion was.</p>

Reply	<p>NatureScot – Emailed – 20/09/2024</p> <p>I can confirm the NatureScot position as follows:</p> <p>In this particular case the area of excavation is not large. The habitat involved is uncultivated land and as such we support your decision that screening was necessary.</p> <p>We found the supporting material supplied by RPID following their site visit to be very helpful and that allowed us to come to an opinion without the need for a site visit. We agree with your stance that the floristic diversity of the grassland was not large and that it was dominated by Yorkshire Fog. Whilst some flowers were also present (Knapweed, Mouse-ear, Birds Foot-Trefoil) there was nothing that was indicative of a species rich flora. We note that as this is a Borrow Pit and that the activity that is taking place is not land improvement. The client is replacing a small area of uncultivated grassland with an open and erratically active quarry. Providing the quarry is not subsequently restored to intensive agricultural land it will evolve a diverse rich habitat perhaps more interesting than what has been/will be removed. Therefore, in terms of area of biodiversity there will be no net-loss of biodiversity once extraction has ceased and recovery by nature progresses..</p>
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SEPA consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

Scottish Forestry consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

Outcome			
Full EIA required?	NO		
Notes	<p>We have considered the application and concluded that the work is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>This is due to the proposal indicating that the business will use the borrow pit occasionally for track and gateway maintenance around the holding. This will involve removing small quantities of aggregate material.</p> <p>Relevant consultees have no concerns as explained above.</p>		
Deciding officer	[REDACTED TEXT]	Countersigning officer	[REDACTED TEXT]
Date	08/08/2024	Date	09/08/2024

#### 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