

Application for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Decision



For official use only

Sequential number:

Date application 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 reseeding 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)

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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)

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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

Due to the change in the EFA rules we now need 5% EFA in this business (we were previously exempt due to being over 75% grass). Some of the area will be done in the arable rotation but I would prefer not to take too much land out of food production. I have identified two areas on the farm I would like to plough up and put into a soil conditioning crop as EFA Fallow and then put into grass with at least 3 flowering species the following year and continue to use them for EFA.

Both of these areas were sown out in species rich grass in 2018 as part of an AECS Scheme that ran until 2022. Our application to continue that scheme was unsuccessful. The two areas have since been redundant apart from occasional topping to keep tidy. By the end of the scheme they had become very weedy and continue to be of poor quality. I feel a year of soil conditioning crop and then sown into an EFA compliant grass mix would do the soil some good and enhance the following crop of grass and therefore the biodiversity and an improved habitat. The areas are not common land and there are no core paths or rights of way through these areas.

I cannot see any environmental downside to this proposed plan as it will only improve the soil/habitat for the future and improve water penetration/absorption.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Mandated Active Parcels

Bespoke Map

Annotation

Centre: 291064.5, 718492.1

Date: 17/04/2026

NN 90248/18255

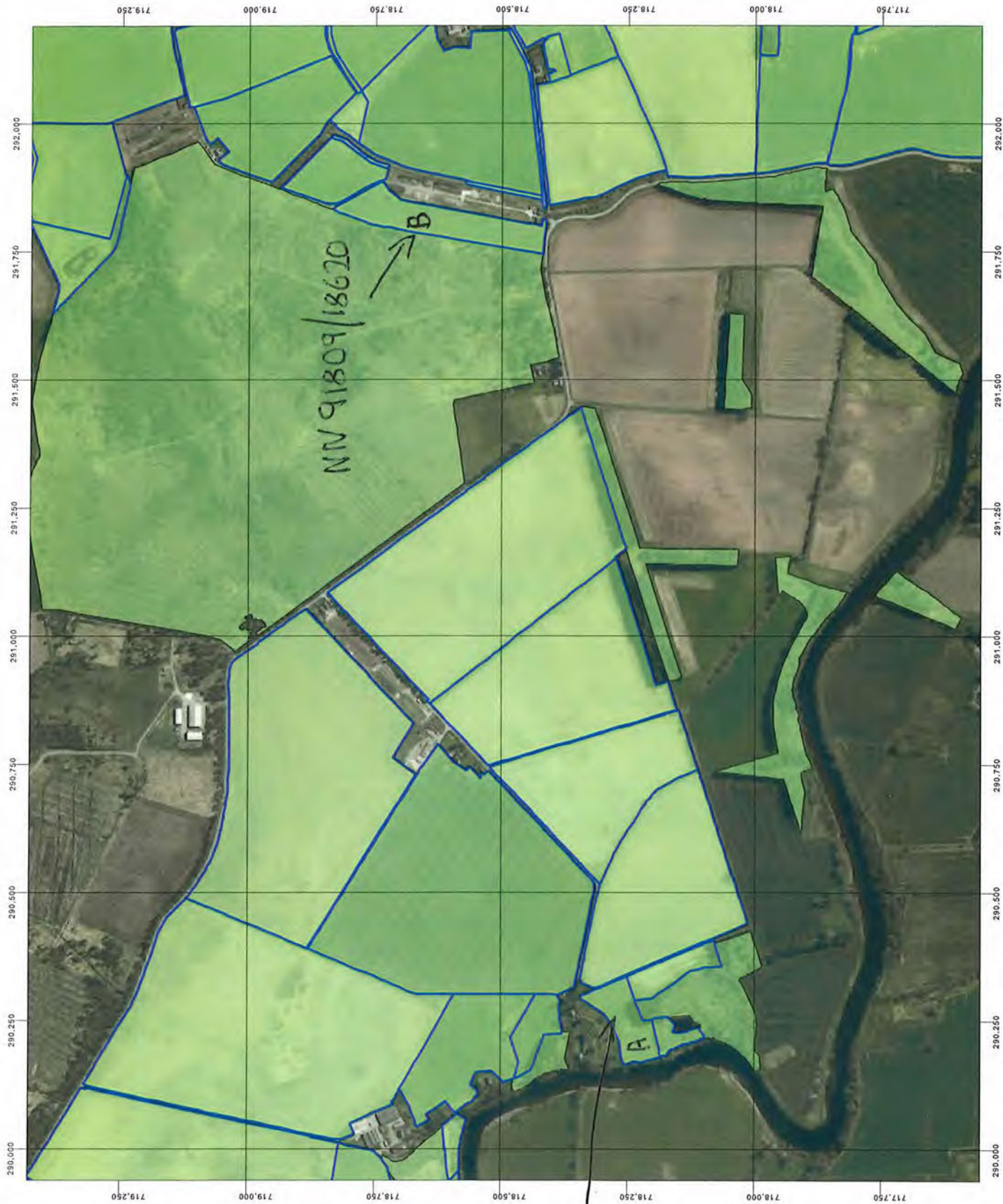
NN 91809/18620

B

A



0 100 200 300 m



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) Site A is a small field that runs down to the river Earn. Vegetation is a mixture of grass/weeds Site B runs along the side of a wood. vegetation is a mixture grass/weeds. Drainage is good.	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.
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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
NN/90248/18255	A	1.22 HA	Top current vegetation, plough and then sow soil conditioning mix Then next year mulch in the soil conditioning crop, plough and sow companion EFA grass mix
NN/91809/18620	B	2.3 HA	As Above.

* 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: 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.

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

Please complete the table below.

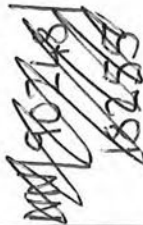
Land Parcel Identifier	Letter of proposed works on map	Area to be drained / irrigated (ha)	Description of the proposed work (mark exact area of project on map referred to in section 3a).
AB/12345/12345	a	4	Example – Insert new piped drainage system (125 mm leader, 80 mm spurs 10 m average spacing) running to nearby burn 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  182553	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.
NN/90248/ 18255	Mainly used for sheep grazing up until 2018 when sown in species rich grass for AECS scheme. Field redundant since scheme ended in 2022 apart from occasional tapping.	Put into EFA Follow soil conditioning crop for one year and then put down to EFA Follow compliant grass mix. All managed within EFA Rules.
NN/91809/ 18620	Mainly in grass with occasional breaks into Kale or spring barley. Sown in species rich grass in 2018 for AECS scheme. Field Redundant. Since scheme ended in 2022 apart from occasional tapping	As Above.

Section 5 – How we use your information



Please refer to the EIA Privacy Notice on the following webpage:

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/inspections/all-inspections/cross-compliance/environmental-impact-assessment/eia-overview/eia-privacy-notice/>

If you require a paper copy, please contact your local area office.

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

1	7	1	0	4	1	2	0	2	6
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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.