

# 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 <b>any</b> field boundary (e.g. fences etc)	6 km or more	<b>Always</b>
Removing hedge or drystone dyke	0.5 km	<b>Always</b>
Move earth, rock or any other material	5,000 m <sup>3</sup>	<b>Always</b>
Restructuring an area greater than	200 ha	<b>Always</b>

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

We propose to cultivate and reseed approximately 1.78 ha (A) and 0.80 ha (B) of existing in-bye permanent pasture in order to establish a fodder crop, likely kale (see attached map for the location of the proposed areas).

Both sites are located within the Moorfoot Hills SSSI. We have consulted with our SSSI representative, [REDACTED] operations Officer - South - Nature Scot). She has confirmed that the operations will not have an impact on the Moorfoot Hills SSSI. A copy of this communication is attached.

The purpose of establishing these fodder crops is to create and maintain over winter grazing for our farming operation. The crop will provide winter forage for the estate's sheep enterprise, thereby contributing to the estate's agricultural management.

Overwinter fodder is becoming hard to get hold of, and hugely expensive, hence the estate wanting to grow some of their own.

To establish the crop, both area's will be cultivated to turn over the existing pasture and create a suitable seedbed, after which the fodder crop will be drilled. The crop will be carefully managed to ensure successful establishment and maintained as a standing cover.

This management approach will increase biodiversity within the field and enhance habitat provision, while helping the estate's livestock enterprise.

*Continue on a separate sheet if necessary*

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

<p><b>Site description.</b> (Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)</p> <p>Both fields are in-bye permanent pasture, grazed by the estates sheep on rotation. The fields are enclosed with fencing or stone walling to keep the livestock in. Both fields haven't been cultivated or reseeded for over ten years.</p>	<p>If different from Main Location</p> <p><b>Name of Farm:</b> <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">XXXXXXXXXX</span></p> <p><b>Location code:</b> NT3648 1784</p>
	<p><b>For example:</b></p> <p>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.</p>

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
NT4047 3001	A	1.78ha	Cultivate the existing permanent pasture and and re seed the area with a fodder crop (likely Kale).
NT4146 3488	B	0.8ha	Cultivate the existing permanent pasture and and re seed the area with a fodder crop (likely Kale).

\* 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:

<b>Site description.</b> <i>(Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)</i>	If different from Main Location <b>Name of Farm:</b>
	<b>Location code:</b>
	<b>For example:</b> <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 <sup>3</sup> ) (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 <sup>3</sup>	<i>Example a – strip back topsoil, break and spread rock, replace soil and grade level, and reseed.</i>
	B	750 m	n/a	<i>Example b – Demolish 750 m of dilapidated dyke, and reuse stone to repair dykes elsewhere on holding.</i>

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

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

<b>Site description.</b> (Please describe the main features of the land, including watercourses and drainage systems, vegetation, wildlife and habitats)	If different from Main Location <b>Name of Farm:</b>
	<b>Location code:</b>  <b>For example:</b> <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 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	<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>
A NT4047 3001	Currently, the field is in permanent in-bye pasture grazed by sheep and is not cut for forage. The Field hasn't been cultivated or reseeded for 10+ years.	The proposed management change would introduce 1.78ha of fodder crop(likely Kale) at the top of the field as an overwinter grazing crop for the estates sheep. This would be cultivated and reseeded annually.
B NT4146 3488	Currently, the field is in permanent in-bye pasture grazed by sheep and is not cut for forage. The Field hasn't been cultivated or reseeded for 10+ years.	The proposed management change would introduce 0.80ha of fodder crop(likely Kale) into the field to act as an overwinter grazing crop for the estates sheep. This area would be cultivated and reseeded annually.

## 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

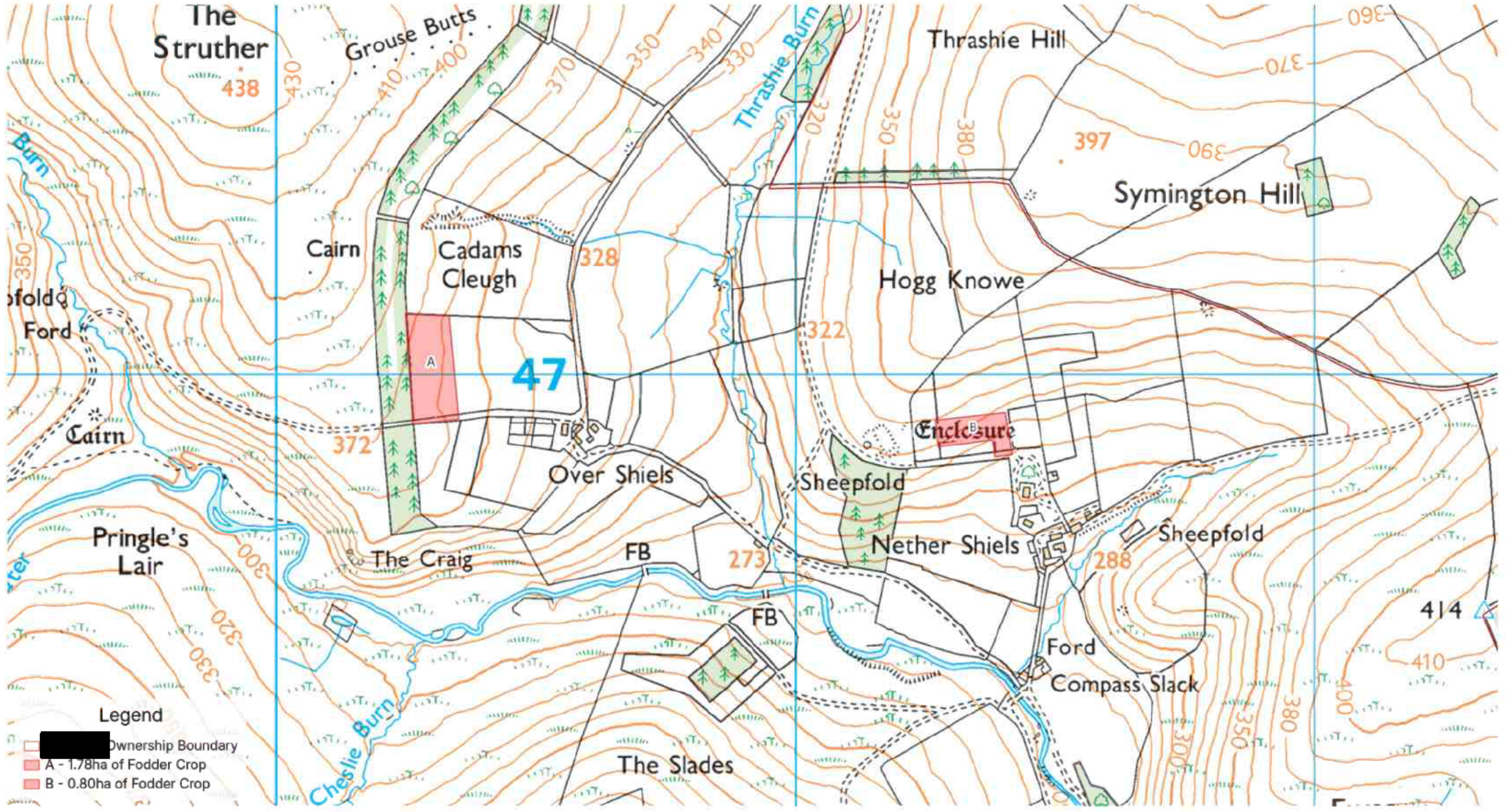
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#### IMPORTANT – CHECK LIST

- 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.**

- Proposed Fodder Crops



[REDACTED]

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**From:** informed@planning.nature.scot  
**Sent:** 01 April 2026 14:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fodder Crop within Moorfoot Hills SSSI - Reference Number 104949

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us for an EIA scoping opinion on growing a fodder crop in this area. I advise that this proposal will not have an impact on the Moorfoot Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is within the Moorfoot Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest, but the notified habitats are not found on the improved in-bye ground. This location is not important breeding habitat for the bird species that form part of the breeding bird assemblage.

If the proposal is approved by RPID, via the agricultural EIA process, then you will not need a separate consent from us, but we may be contacted by them for comments.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Operations Officer - South



NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage