

Application for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Decision



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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 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)

☐
☐
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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

It is proposed to carry out reseeds in three of the applicants fields - full reseeds in HU/30855/44228(0.24ha) & HU/30842/44146 (1.22ha) along with 0.67ha of the top of HU/30500/43884.

The reseed will involve ploughing the swards followed by cultivation works along with the application of inorganic fertiliser, lime and grass seed. The type of fertiliser and quantity of lime to be applied has been determined from soil samples which were submitted prior to beginning this project. This ensures that only the required quantity of lime and fertiliser will be used, reducing any extra unnecessary application.

All of the proposed reseed areas currently are well drained and have undergone drainage works in the past therefore there will be no potential impact of how any of the proposed reseeded will have any effect on 'water'.

Initially, during the first year if ploughing, there may be some impact on waders and other ground-nesting birds, as the cultivation works could temporarily displace them. However, in subsequent years these species are likely to benefit from the reseeded ground, as it will provide higher quality fodder and improved foraging opportunities. This pattern is already evident on other improved fields on the croft, where the best managed areas are consistently those most frequently used by birds.

As per Annex A of the Whole Farm Plan guidance on Rural Payments and Services, HU/30855/44228 and HU/30842/44146 can be classified as improved grasslands as they are productive grasslands of more than a 30% content of perennial rye-grasses, timothy and/or white clover. The fields are currently cut twice for silage annually and receive regular applications of fertiliser, lime and farmyard manure.

The proposed 0.67ha reseed area of HU/30500/43884 would be classed as semi-improved grassland, as it was previously improved several decades ago. The field currently supports only a limited presence of priority native flora or species. While ploughing may initially reduce the diversity of plant species present, the proposed grass seed mix includes flowering species, which will help support biodiversity and enhance habitat value over time.

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) HU/30855/44228 & HU/30842/44146 are currently classed as 'improved grassland'. HU/30500/43884 is currently classed as 'semi-improved' grassland due to having been improved several decades ago. There are a mixture of tile and open field drains which are not featured on the map. There is a limited presence of any priority native flora or species. Fields are enclosed with a wire fence.	If different from Main Location Name of Farm:
	Location code:
	For example: <i>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.</i>

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
HU/30855/44228	A	0.24ha	Plough current vegetation, follow through with other necessary cultivation works, apply lime & fertiliser and reseed with grass mix.
HU/30842/44146	B	1.22ha	Plough current vegetation, follow through with other necessary cultivation works, apply lime & fertiliser and reseed with grass mix.
HU/30500/43884.	C	0.67ha	Plough current vegetation, follow through with other necessary cultivation works, apply lime & fertiliser and reseed with 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)	If different from Main Location Name of Farm:
	Location code:
	For example: <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 ³) (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 ³	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: <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>
HU/30855/44228	Currently used for two cuts of silage annually, fertilised at a cutting dressing rate to support this use. Limed when required. Grazed throughout the winter with sheep.	The management of this field would not change once reseeded. It is expected that the two cuts of silage would be of a better quality along with producing higher yields. Regular fertiliser and lime applications would be applied to enhance productivity of the field if soil samples indicated the field required any specific nutrients.
HU/30842/44146	Currently used for two cuts of silage annually, fertilised at a cutting dressing rate to support this use. Limed when required. Grazed throughout the winter with sheep.	The management of this field would not change once reseeded. It is expected that the two cuts of silage would be of a better quality along with producing higher yields. Regular fertiliser and lime applications would be applied to enhance productivity of the field if soil samples indicated the field required any specific nutrients.
HU/30500/43884	Sheep grazing field, not cut for silage. 30 sheep currently stocked. Topped annually. Currently receives a dressing of compound fertiliser every few years. Last reseeded several decades ago.	Will be used as a silage field, fertiliser will be applied at a cutting dressing rate annually to support this. Stocking rate could be increased if used for grazing.

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

Name
(Block Capitals)

██████████ ██████████

Status of person signing

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

**Agent ID number
(if applicable)**

[REDACTED]

Date

0	9	/	0	4	/	2	0	2	6
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IMPORTANT – CHECK LIST

- ☐ Answered all the questions.
- ☒ If necessary, attached any separate sheet(s) required. **MAPS ATTACHED**

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.



A - HU/30855/44228 0.24ha

B - HU/30842/44146 1.22ha

C- HU/30500/43884 0.67ha

Apportionment

0

Best Available

0 50 100m

Scale: 1:2500

Printed at A3



Date Printed: 09/04/2026

X = 430729, Y=1144084

