

EIA Screening decision proforma

Business details			
Business reference number	[REDACTED TEXT]	Name	[REDACTED TEXT]
Main location code	[REDACTED TEXT]	EIA ID	2025-015

Proposed works details				
Location CPH	[REDACTED TEXT]	Type	Non improved / Semi natural / sensitive land	X
Location name	[REDACTED TEXT]		Restructuring above thresholds	
Grid reference	NX 748 548		Drainage	
Nearest Town	Castle Douglas		Irrigation	
Description of proposed works	Repair damaged drainage system and remove knowes in two fields to enable the fields to be cut for silage by modern machinery. Move management from grazing by 40-50 calves to cutting for forage 2-3 times per year. Land currently receives slurry and fertiliser and will continue to receive slurry and fertilizer under proposed new management.			

Initial check (LPIS, PastMap etc)	comments
Are any significant earthworks proposed within 25m of a railway or classified road? (If yes refer customer to LA planning department, and reject screening application)	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 refer customer to LA planning or FS, and reject screening application)	no
Does the proposed work involve removing earth/rock from farm unit? (If yes refer customer to LA planning and SEPA, and reject screening application)	no
Does the proposed work involve infilling depressions or hollows with material not from the immediate area? (If yes consult with SEPA)	no
Check designations and cross compliance layers, and PastMap. Are there monuments close to the proposed works? (If yes consult with HES for scheduled monuments, and LA archaeologist for non-scheduled monuments)	no
Does the project involve any Semi-natural / uncultivated / sensitive areas, or potentially effect any habitat, landscape, or wildlife species (If yes, consult with NatureScot)	Yes
Does the project potentially effect the water environment, pose a pollution risk, or potentially have any other effects under SEPAs remit? (if yes consult with SEPA)	Yes – several proposed knowes located near to burns. (will need to contact SEPA should this go to full EIA report)

Check if proposals breach thresholds
4535 m ³ , so below 5000m ³ threshold, but potentially semi-natural so no threshold applies

Check EIA tracker for previous projects at location
None found

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

Historic Environment Scotland / Local Authority Archaeologist consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

NatureScot consultation	
Our questions	NatureScot asked to attend joint site visit
Reply	Summary of Field Observations: Discussions on site indicated that the site had received fertilizer inputs up until 2012 and that the grassland had reverted since then. That was consistent with our observations of the field. There was no feeling that there had been any ploughing for a very long time, indeed perhaps the site had never experienced ploughing and certainly the rocky areas and thinner soils will never have been ploughed. There was no evidence of intensive agricultural practices in the field. The whole field (and not just the knolls for restructuring) would be considered as "unimproved grassland" rather than "improved/semi-improved" on the bases that the sward contained less than 30% of rye-grass, white clover, timothy or cock's-foot as defined in the AECS field sheet for the "Identification of Species-rich Grassland". Within the field there is a mosaic of grassland habitat with more botanical interest where the rock is near to the surface. There is a veteran Ash tree in a healthy condition at the southern end of the field near the stream which adds additional biodiversity interest to the site. Discussions on site concluded that this tree and the soil below it would remain undisturbed. Some species indicative of a species rich sward were encountered (Germander Speedwell, Heath Bedstraw, Tormantil, Harebell, Cats-ear) but they were not necessarily present throughout the site but restricted to the following Knolls C, J, K, L, M, N and P. Other species present with the site included a small fern on the rocky outcrop Knoll P and Sneezewort (Knoll D). The rocky knolls surrounded by low intensity managed grasslands create distinctive landscape features. At the time of the visit no volume of the proposed restructuring elements had been discussed and therefore, it was not clear how close that might be to the EIA threshold. NatureScot's Position: The field for the proposed restructuring contains a suite of knolls and intervening areas which are "uncultivated" and given the cessation of fertilizers many years ago would be considered as "unimproved grassland" as defined in the AECS field sheet for the "Identification of Species-rich Grassland". These uncultivated areas have areas of more enhanced biodiversity interest on Knolls C, J, K, L, M, N and P and the more interesting areas are often associated with the rocky outcrops and thinner soils. The presence of the areas of "uncultivated" land within this field necessitates an Environmental Statement being required. Our advice to RPID is therefore, that an Environmental Statement needs to be prepared for this land on account of the uncultivated land.

SEPA consultation	
Our questions	N/A
Reply	N/A

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

Outcome			
Full EIA required?	YES		
Statement of reasons for decision	The prevalence of species rich grassland plants noted at the site visit, (not just on the areas proposed, but throughout) means that the proposed operations could have a significant environmental impact.		
Deciding officer	[REDACTED TEXT]	Countersigning officer	[REDACTED TEXT]
Date	03/09/25	Date	03/09/25

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