

**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



Our Ref: ENQ/2011/1108  
Your Ref:

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FAO Nigel Coulshed

02/08/2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011**  
**Proposal: EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Flood Alleviation Scheme**  
**Address: Land to North, North West and North East of The Meadows Huntly**

I refer to the above and to your request for a screening opinion under Regulation 6 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

The Planning Authority is required to provide and record a formal screening opinion based upon an assessment of the location, nature, purpose and possible effects of the development. Based on this assessment it is my opinion that an Environmental Statement is not required.

Under the terms of the above Regulations, the proposed development is of a type listed under Schedule 2.

The following statement gives full reasons for this conclusion:

Potential impact on nature conservation

Although there are no designated nature conservation designations directly associated with the various options or within 2km of these, it is noted that an ecological survey of the area was carried out and indicated the use of the area by a number of Protected Species (PS). The vegetation was assessed as suitable for nesting bird surveys and reptiles. It is noted that additional survey work will be undertaken during the detailed design phase of the project. This will help identify the potential impact on PS and their habitats and any mitigation measures deemed necessary.

**If you have difficulty in reading this paper please contact Aude Chaiban on 01569-768269**

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The potential for tree felling has been identified. It is noted that any felling deemed necessary will be discussed in details with relevant council officials prior to any felling taking place and any necessary replanting proposals agreed as part of these discussions.

It is noted that option 3 has been modified to avoid impacting on an existing badger sett.

#### Potential impact on cultural heritage

There are no listed buildings or ancient scheduled monuments directly associated with the proposed development. However, a few listed building and Ancient Scheduled Monuments are located within 2km of the proposed options. It is noted that the impact on these structures will be thoroughly assessed by visual inspection once the preferred option(s) are known. It is also noted that should the preferred option(s) require ground work on currently undisturbed ground the potential impact of on archaeological remains, notably associated with Huntly Castle, a desk study will be undertaken to identify any known archaeology.

It is noted that option 9 and part of option 8 have been discounted to avoid impacting on Huntly Castle.

#### Potential impact on the water environment

The potential impact on the water environment has been assessed as minor adverse/negligible. The potential risk of contaminant entering the adjacent burns (River Deveron, Meadow Burn, Ittingstone Burn) during construction works may be significant without adequate attenuation. It is noted that these potential impacts will, if required by the Planning Authority, be addressed through the submission of an Environmental Management Plan, a Waste Management Plan and detailed method statements (e.g. construction method statements) and timing of works to avoid potentially polluting activities during periods of high rainfall.

It is noted that any works to the water environment will be carried out in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and that the aim will be to prevent any deterioration of the ecological status of the water environment and to improve, when possible the ecological value of the water environment.

#### Potential impact on public access

The proposal may have a temporary impact on public access (core path network) during the construction phase. It is noted that further discussions are to take place with relevant council officials during the detailed assessment of the preferred options.

#### Conclusion

The potential impacts of the proposals on the environment have been clearly identified in the submitted information. The options that may have had a significant impact on cultural heritage (option 8 and 9) or natural heritage (option 3) have been either discounted or modified to avoid impacting on these assets. The proposed approach to deal with any potential impacts through a suite of tailored environmental assessments to establish that (a) there are no important environmental resources/receptors in the vicinity of the site and, (b) where further

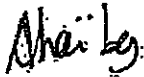
analysis identifies the presence of an important resource or receptor, the design and mitigation proposals ensure that these assets will not be significantly affected is supported by the Planning Authority.

You have the right to apply to Scottish Ministers for a screening direction should you disagree with the above opinion.

This opinion will be held for public inspection for a two year period, or until a planning application is submitted at which time the opinion will be transferred to the planning register with the application.

Should you wish to discuss any matters relating to this issue please contact myself on the above number.

Yours faithfully



**Aude Chaiban**  
Planner