



**PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL**

SEA Pre-Screening Report

Muthill Conservation Area Appraisal





Section 1. Contact Details

Name of Responsible Authority Perth and Kinross Council

Title of Plan, Programme or Strategy Muthill Conservation Area Appraisal

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Job Title Conservation Officer

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Signature

Date of Opinion 04/08/2010

Submit the finalised report to:

SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

OR

sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Section 2. Key Facts

2.1	Description of PPS	An appraisal of the area likely to be included within the boundaries of the Conservation Area. It seeks to define the key elements of the area that contribute to its character and appearance
2.2	Period Covered by PPS	5-10 years
2.3	Description of Area Covered by PPS (km ²)	Map in Appendix 1
2.4	Explain how you made the determination that the PPS will have NO or MINIMAL environmental effect?	An SEA is not required because the Appraisal is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. The document is primarily one of analysis with a small element identifying future possibilities for management or enhancement. Most of the impacts of these proposals will be covered by other PPSs or require further guidance which will itself be considered under the SEA legislation.





Yes, The Muthill Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) will define the special characteristics of the built heritage in the village and will serve as a management tool by identifying opportunities for further action by the local planning authority and others in preparing enhancement schemes. However, Muthill is developed in the main and little development should occur as a result of the CAA or Article 4 Direction. In fact, these should make it more difficult for minor development which is not considered compatible with the historic townscape, to occur.

Therefore, Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) does not believe that any significant environmental effects will occur as a result of this Appraisal. It is expected that the area should exist largely as it is now with only minor developments occurring. The CAA and Article 4 Direction affect a small area and any impacts will be extremely localised in nature.

While the CAA does discuss possible enhancement schemes, these are very much proposals and do not constitute a dedicated programme of works. When preparing a CAA the Council is required to identify areas where the historic environment and character of the area could be enhanced. However, these are just proposals and may, or may not, go forward depending on:

- Securing the necessary funding
- Public consultation
- Reaching partnership agreements with local organisations who are likely to take forward some of the proposed enhancement projects.

2.5 Have you considered the affects of the plan against Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005?

PKC has gone through the process of preparing full SEA Environmental Reports for the Pitlochry and Coupar Angus Conservation Area Appraisals. For these plans, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage and Material Assets were scoped in to the Environmental Reports. As a result of this work, PKC now feels that the Conservation Area Appraisal is, in reality, a guidance document and as such does not have associated actions or works that will be carried out as part of the CAA. In response to the SEA topics originally considered:

Biodiversity

SNH was concerned that the CAA and Article 4 Directions would threaten European Protected Species (e.g. bats, salmon, and otter) and may result in loss of important habitat and greenspace.

As the plans are very limited in scope and affect only small, localised areas, PKC does not believe that there will be any significant environmental effects. If the CAA is likely to result in large scale development, PKC would not have reached this conclusion. Minimal development is likely to occur in the conservation area and will not have a significant effect on biodiversity.

Cultural Heritage and Material Assets

The CAA will help to protect the special character of the conservation area. However, the plan is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment as it is limited to a small area and does not identify major or specific, large-scale programmes of work.



