



We safeguard the nation's historic environment and promote its understanding and enjoyment

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Your ref:

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Dear Ms Duffy

**Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004
Perth and Kinross Council Auchterarder Expansion Framework: Screening Report**

I refer to the above screening report, received by the Scottish Executive's SEA Gateway on 10 November 2006.

I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Regulations, in accordance with Regulation 14(3). In doing so, I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 1 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

The screening report provides a useful overview of the Development Framework. My understanding is that the Framework will guide the development of the Castlemains and Kirkton sites on the northern edge of Auchterarder and of the Towhead site to the south-west for new housing. The report identifies that there is a scheduled ancient monument (Auchterarder Castle) in close proximity to the Castlemains site. Accordingly, I agree that the Development Framework has the potential to have significant effects on the historic environment given the proximity of the development to the monument. However, as you will be aware it is the responsibility of Perth and Kinross Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the plan requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

You will no doubt be aware of the requirement under Regulation 17 to consult with the Consultation Authorities on the scope of the Environmental Report, and the length of the consultation period. In considering the scope of the Environmental Report I would draw your attention to the information requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations and to the Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit (available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/14587>).

Please note that this response is solely in the context of the SEA regulations and our role as a Consultation Authority. Historic Scotland will respond separately to consultations on the Development Framework and, for information, these should be addressed to Rosalind Campbell, Development Assessment Team, Room E3, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH. At this early stage, I suggest that the Development Framework should acknowledge the need to safeguard the site and setting of Auchterarder Castle. It should also consider the wider archaeological implications of development within these areas, and I note from the report that an archaeological survey will be undertaken to provide information to accompany the planning application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this response or if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Chisholm
Strategic Environmental Assessment Team Leader