

# Historic Environment Scotland



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

**By email to:**

MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot  
Marine Directorate  
Marine Laboratory  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131 668 8716  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300085335  
Your ref: SCR-0123  
13 March 2026

Dear Marine Directorate

**The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017  
Applecross Hatchery and Russel Burn Remedial Works  
Request for Screening Opinion**

Thank you for consulting us on this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening request, which we received on 23 February 2026. This letter contains our comments for our historic environment interests. That covers cultural World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas.

The relevant local authority archaeological and conservation advisors will also be able to offer advice on historic environment impacts. This may include topics covered by [our advice-giving role](#), and also other topics such as unscheduled archaeology, category B and C listed buildings, and conservation areas.

We understand that you are looking for advice on whether or not there will be likely significant effects on assets within our remit. If you would like advice on any potential effects on specific assets, please let us know.

**Our advice**

We have not identified any potentially significant effects on the historic environment and therefore have no reason to consider the proposals to be EIA development.

We hope this is helpful. If you would like to submit more information about this or any other proposed development to us for comment, please send it to our consultations mailbox, [hmconsultations@hes.scot](mailto:hmconsultations@hes.scot). If you have questions about this response, please contact Cailee Mellen at [cailee.mellen@hes.scot](mailto:cailee.mellen@hes.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH  
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**  
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

**NatureScot**



**NatureScot**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

By email: [Md.Marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:Md.Marinelicensing@gov.scot)

12 March 2025

Our ref: CEA183480

Dear Gerry Millar

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017  
(AS AMENDED) ("the EIA Regulations")  
CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE EIA REGULATIONS**

**SCR-0123-Screening Request-Applecross Hatchery and Russell Burn Remedial Works**

**Loch Carron Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA)  
Wester Ross National Scenic Area (NSA)**

Thank you for your consultation dated 20 February 2026 seeking a screening opinion on this proposal.

Summary

Overall, we are content with the methods and proposals outlined in the design statement and in our view a full EIA is not required.

Other statutory consultees may however be of a different view in terms of their own roles, and it will ultimately be for Marine Directorate to determine whether or not the project meets any of the thresholds that you are required to consider in relation to EIA screening for Marine Licence applications.

In carrying out an assessment, Marine Directorate as the competent authority must satisfy itself that adequate mitigation measures will be in place to ensure (on the basis of there being no reasonable scientific doubt) the proposal will not hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives. NatureScot can provide support and advice in this process in our roles as a statutory consultee.

**Loch Carron Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA)**

The proposal is approximately 3km North of Loch Carron NC MPA, selected for its flame shell beds and maerl beds.

The site's status means that the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 apply. Consequently, the Marine Directorate is required to consider the effect of the proposal on the NC MPA before it can be consented.

Flame shell beds and maerl beds are sensitive to increased levels of sedimentation. This can cause smothering of the beds, blocking the water flow and exchange of oxygen.

The design method statement outlines the minimum silt management that will be undertaken to prevent eroded soil and sediments entering the watercourse and that a detailed silt management plan will be produced by the contractor.

Given the nature and location of the proposed works and the mitigation outlined in the design method statement our advice is that there should be no significant direct or indirect environmental impacts on the features for which the NC MPA has been designated.

Further information on Loch Carron MPA(NC) and its conservation objectives can be found [here](#).

### **Wester Ross National Scenic Area (NSA)**

The proposal is within the Wester Ross NSA. The special qualities of the NSA include 'the superb coast and coastal views' and 'the abundance of water, a foreground to dramatic views.' The proposal is to remediate existing river engineering works and improve flood resilience and coastal processes. We advise that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Wester Ross NSA or the objectives of the designation.

### **Fresh Water Pearl Mussel**

Fresh water pearl mussels are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Nature Conservation Act 2004. A survey of freshwater pearl mussels should be undertaken if they could be present in a watercourse within or close to a development site. We provide standing advice on [fresh water pearl mussels](#).

Please contact me should you have any queries regarding our advice.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsay McKerral  
Transformative Land Use Advisor– Central Highland

# **Scottish Environment Protection Agency**

## Judith Horrill

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**From:** Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2026 11:15  
**To:** MD Marine Licensing  
**Cc:** Gerry Millar  
**Subject:** PCS-20008090 SEPA Response to SCR-0123

**Categories:** Saved to eRDM  
**Objective:** -1

To Whom It May Concern,

**Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017  
SCR-0123  
Applecross Hatchery and Russel Burn Remedial Works  
Russel Burn, Kishorn**

Based on the information provided we do not consider that EIA is required. We refer you and the applicant to our standing advice for further advice on impacts on the marine environment.

The applicant should continue to liaise with our local team in Dingwall and national water permitting in relation to works further up-stream and need for any form of EASR authorisation.

Kind regards,  
Susan Haslam  
Senior Planning Officer



**For the future of our environment**

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu [postmaster@sepa.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@sepa.org.uk). Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoileadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlèidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.

# **The Highland Council**

**Marine Directorate**

Judith Horrill  
Marine Licensing Operations Team  
Scottish Government  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

Please ask for: **Alexis Chatterton**

Direct phone: [Redacted]

Your ref: SCR-0123

Our ref: 26/00798/SCRE

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Judith,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”)**

**CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE EIA REGULATIONS**

Thank you for consulting the Highland Council on the above proposal received on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and the extension granted. We have reviewed the accompanying information and have the following comments to make;

We acknowledge that the proposed development falls within schedule 2, paragraph 10 (m) of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. We understand that this consultation relates to the proposed engineering works at the Russel Burn, comprising restoration works upstream which are to be hydraulically connected to the tidal environment through a step pool design. The stated aim of the proposal is to restore the natural function of the watercourse, improve passage for migratory fish, and enhance flood resilience and coastal process through modification of the lower reaches of the burn.

We can confirm that an application for planning permission has been received under reference number 26/00580/FUL in relation to the remedial engineering works at the Russel Burn. In terms of hydrology and flood risk, the proposed engineering works have the potential to alter flow dynamics within the Russel Burn. While the stated intent is to improve resilience through restoration of natural processes and the proposed works have been granted a Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) licence by SEPA under reference number CAR/L/5011564, SEPA’s flood risk team are also required to assess the development from a flood risk perspective as part of the planning process. Discussions in this regard are already underway and as requested by SEPA an updated FRA has been requested and discussions on these matters remain ongoing between the applicant, Planning Authority and SEPA.

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**Alexis Chatterton:** Aquaculture & Coastal Development Planning Officer

**Phone:** (01463) 702000 **Mobile:** [Redacted]

**Email:** [Redacted]

**Web:** [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The site is located within the wider Kishorn Port and Yard development and does not lie within the boundary of any nationally or internationally designated sites (SAC, SSSI, NC MPA or SPAs). However, given the hydrological connectivity of the Russel Burn to the coastal environment there remains potential or indirect effects on downstream marine receptors. However, it is acknowledged that the hydrological connectivity will have been considered as part of the CAR licencing process, further consideration may also be required under schedule 3.

The site is located within the Wester Ross National Scenic area. As such, the proposed works have the potential to affect the special landscape qualities, particularly in relations to alterations to the watercourse associated engineering features and any changes to landscape character within the lower reaches of the burn. Notwithstanding this, it is recognised that the overall aim of the proposal is to restore the natural function and character of the watercourse and on this basis the planning authority does not consider that these are likely to give rise to adverse effects on the special qualities of the NSA. However, we would defer to advice of NatureScot in this regard.

Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, and taking into account the criteria set out in schedule 3, the Planning Authority is of the opinion that the proposed works are not likely to give rise to significant effects and, as such, and EIA is not required.

In reaching this opinion, it is recognised that the proposal is primarily restorative in nature, seeking to reinstate more natural process within the Russel Burn. The introduction of the step-pool sequence is expected to improve ecological connectivity and facilitate the passage of migratory fish. Furthermore, the proposed reprofiling of the channel and reconnection of the floodplain has the potential to enhance natural flood management and contribute positively to the functioning of the wider water environment and its interaction with the coastal system.

While some localised and short-term impacts may arise during construction, these are considered capable of being appropriately managed through standard mitigation measures. On balance, and subject to detailed design and implementation of the works, the Planning Authority considers the proposal is likely to result in overall environmental improvement.

## Privacy

Please note that correspondence received in connection with the application will be published online and can be viewed by members of the public.

Our privacy notices for planning applications, consents and notice of review sets out our legal basis for collecting personal information and how we use it. To view the privacy notice please visit the Council's website:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1052173/planning\\_applications\\_consents\\_and\\_notice\\_of\\_review](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1052173/planning_applications_consents_and_notice_of_review)

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

**Alexis Chatterton**

Aquaculture & Coastal Planner

(Highland Wide)