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Our ref: LDP/REN
Our Case ID: 201100032
Your ref: 00587 SCOPING

04 May 2011

Dear Mr McMillan,

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Renfrewshire Council Local Development Plan
Scoping Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the above scoping report prepared for the environmental assessment of Renfrewshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) received by the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 1 April 2011. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to discuss the approach to the assessment as it has developed over the previous months and the approach taken by your Council in facilitating early engagement with the consultation authorities and key agencies.

I have reviewed the scoping report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act (Section 15). This letter contains the views of Historic Scotland on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report (part 1), and the duration of the proposed consultation period (part 2).

1. Scope of assessment and level of detail

- 1.1 I welcome that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. Overall, I found the scoping report clearly presented and helpful and am content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental assessment.
- 1.2 I welcome that the assessment will consider alternatives at strategic, policy and site-specific levels and encourage a broad assessment of proposed land allocations and their alternatives. This will help ensure that any significant effects are recognised as early as possible, that any mitigation measures can be considered and that the public are given an early opportunity to provide views on the environmental effects for each allocation. In our experience, those

local authorities who have addressed these issues at an early stage in the process have reduced the need to undertake further assessment and consultation later on. It will be useful to provide a brief commentary on the various environmental issues associated with each alternative to help the reader understand why certain conclusions have been reached.

- 1.3 Simply for information, we found the current consultation by Dumfries & Galloway Council on their land allocations/Main Issues Report and the format of their site assessments very clear, and so you may wish to review the method employed in that example. This is available at:
<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9535>

2. Consultation period for the Environmental Report (ER)

- 2.1 I note that the consultation period on the Main Issues Report (MIR) and the ER will be for 8 weeks and am content with this. For administrative purposes, we consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Secretariat.
- 2.2 At the ER stage, we are content with receiving an electronic copy of the report and the MIR, both of which should be sent via the Scottish Government Gateway in line with the procedures set out in the SEA Tool Kit, available at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45.

None of the comments contained in this letter should be construed as constituting a legal interpretation of the requirements of the SEA Act. Rather, they are intended as helpful advice as part of our commitment to capacity-building in SEA.

I hope this response is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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Nicola Hall
Senior Development Assessment Officer