



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**

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Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Gavin Evans  
Planning and Sustainable  
Development  
Business Hub 4  
Marischal College  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1AB.

Date: 16 June 2017  
Our ref: CNS/DC/Aberdeenshire  
Your ref: 170021/DPP

Dear Mr Evans,

**Proposed Community and Sports Facilities, Football Academy, (comprising outdoor pitches, pavilion, ancillary buildings), Stadium (20,000 capacity), ancillary uses, formation of access roads, parking and associated landscaping and engineering works**

**Land at West Kingsford, (north of the A944 road), Skene Road, Aberdeen, AB15 8QR  
The Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011**

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2017 requesting our comments on the additional information submitted in support of the above development proposal.

**Wintering bird survey report**

We note the results of the wintering bird survey. We agree with conclusions and recommendations set out in the survey report.

The report makes reference to Loch of Skene Special Protection Area (SPA). Loch of Skene is designated as an SPA for its wintering populations of greylag geese. We note that a maximum of 2 greylag geese were recorded on the site. In view of this, the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on this species and no further consideration in relation to the SPA is required.

**Breeding bird survey**

Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Torry, Aberdeen, AB11 9QA  
Tel: 01224 266500 Fax: 01224 895958 [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk)

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Inbhir Dhè, Sràid Baxter, Torraidh, Obar Dheathain, AB11 9QA  
Fòn: 01224 266500 Facs: 01224 895958 [www.snh.gov.uk/gaelic](http://www.snh.gov.uk/gaelic)

We note the results of the breeding bird survey. Standard breeding bird survey guidance indicates that the second of the two visits should be carried out between mid-May and late June, and at least 4 weeks after the initial visit. In this case the second visit was carried out on 12 May and three and half weeks after the initial visit. In addition, no details are given in the survey report as to weather conditions or the times of day at which the survey was carried out. You may wish to clarify with the applicant that survey visits were carried out in appropriate weather conditions and at the optimum time of day, in order to increase confidence in the surveys conclusions.

### **Invertebrate survey**

We note the conclusions of the invertebrate survey report. We are not aware of any particular sensitivities associated with the site. We understand that the North East Biological Records Centre was consulted at an early stage in the Environmental Impact Assessment. It is likely that any known sensitivities would have been identified at that stage.

### **Reptile survey**

The reptile survey was carried out between early and mid-May. While this is within the 'active period' for reptiles, we note that weather conditions during survey visits, particularly temperature, were marginal in terms of being suitable to find reptiles. However, provided the approach outlined in the ES to dismantle possible refuges 'by hand where possible or slowly by machine' then adverse impacts on reptiles are likely to be minimal. As set out in our earlier letter, we advise that where possible refuges are to be dismantled 'slowly by machine' this should be done in the presence of an observer who is in a position to see any reptiles exposed by the work.

### **Drainage assessment**

We note the drainage assessment and that surface water run-off will be dealt with via SUDS. As set out in our letter of 26 January 2017, suitably designed SUDS will ensure the protection of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC). We do not wish to comment on the proposed SUDS; we are content that the Council satisfy itself that it is adequate, with advice from SEPA, if required.

SUDS features can contribute to the biodiversity interest of a site. We therefore recommend, for example, the use of native species in swales.

Please let me know if you require any further information or advice from SNH in relation to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

**Isla Martin**

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