

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****LOCAL REVIEW BODY****NOTE OF CURRENT POSITION**

<b>Site Address:</b>	<b>LAIGH KYLESTON FARM A719 FROM DUNURE ROAD AYR TO AYR ROAD FISHERTON AYR SOUTH AYRSHIRE KA7 4LD</b>
<b>Application:</b>	<b>ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE AND REPLACEMENT OF ANIMAL ISOLATION UNIT</b>

<b>Appointed Officer's Decision:</b>	Refused
<b>Date Notice of Review Received:</b>	28 August 2024

<b>Current Position:</b>	New Case for Review
<b>Documentation:</b>	<p>The following documents in relation to the review are attached:</p> <p>Pages 1 to 12 - Report of Handling</p> <p>Pages 13 to 17 - Notice of Review - August 2024</p> <p>Pages 18 to 65 - Review Statement in Support - August 2024</p> <p>Pages 66 to 87 - Supporting Information – Review Statement in Support- Volume 2- Appendix - August 2024</p> <p>Pages 88 to 96 - Original Planning Application - February 2024</p> <p>Pages 97 to 167 – Planning, Design and Access Statement - February 2024</p> <p>Pages 168 to 180 - Supporting Information – Appendix to Planning, Design and Access Statement - February 2024</p>

	<p>Pages 181 to 202 – Supporting Information - Ecology Survey – October 2023</p> <p>Pages 203 to 207 - Planning Application Plans – February 2022</p> <p>Pages 208 to 209 - Decision Notice</p> <p>Pages 210 to 220 - Consultation responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological Review by AECOM (Pages 210 to 213)</li> <li>• ARA (Page 214)</li> <li>• Scottish Water (Pages 215 to 218)</li> <li>• West of Scotland Archaeology Service (Pages 219 to 220)</li> </ul> <p>Page 221 - Case Officer Comments.</p> <p>Page 222 - Further response from Interested Party following Case Officer Comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AECOM (Page 222)</li> </ul> <p>Pages 223 to 230 - Further representations from Agent following Case Officer Comments.</p> <p>Pages 231 to 236 – Case Officer Photographs.</p> <p>Page 237 - Further Response from Interested Party following Case Officer Photographs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Health (Page 237)</li> </ul> <p>Pages 238 to 247 – Further Representations from Agent following Case Officer Photographs.</p> <p>Pages 248 to 250 - Draft Conditions</p>
<b>New Material:</b>	No
<b>Additional Material Any other Comments:</b>	N/A
<b>Dated:</b>	November 2024



## **Report of Handling of Planning Application**

The Council's Scheme of Delegation can be viewed at <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning-application-process>

<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>24/00127/APP</b>
<b>Site Address:</b>	<b>Laigh Kyleston Farm A719 From Dunure Road Ayr To Ayr Road Fisherton Ayr South Ayrshire KA7 4LD</b>
<b>Proposal:</b>	<b>Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Refusal</b>

### **REASON FOR REPORT**

This report fulfils the requirements of Regulation 16, Schedule 2, paragraphs 3 (c) and 4 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. The application has been determined in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation as well as the Procedures for the Handling of Planning Applications.

#### **Key Information:**

- The application was received on 22 February 2024.
- The application was validated on 22 February 2024.
- No Neighbour Notification was required.
- The site has been the subject of a site visit on 27 July 2023 in conjunction with the earlier application at the site (23/00527/APP).
- No Site Notice was required.
- A Public Notice, under Regulation 20 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 was placed in the Local Press on 5 March 2024.

#### **1. Site Description:**

The application site is located within a rural area to the south-west of Ayr, and to the north of the A719 coastal road, and west of the Heads of Ayr Nursey, and the existing Heads of Ayr farmpark which lies to further to the east, and east of the aforementioned nursery. More specifically, the site comprises of part of a larger agricultural field characterised as grazing land. A field gate exists to the south of the site which connects with an existing access to/ from the nearby nursery to the east. The site is defined by a low post and wire fence to the west, and by a disused and re-naturalised railway line containing natural landscape planting to the north. The remaining boundaries of the site to the north-east south-east, and east are undefined by natural features, and integrate into the existing field. The site extends to approximately 0.6 ha in area, with the main portion of the site being positioned to the north of the proposed access. In terms of topography, the proposed access is broadly flat, with the site sloping gradually northwards towards the main northern portion of the site.

In broader landscape terms, the wider landscape of the area comprises of an elevated, attractive and sensitive coastal landscape, with extensive and prominent views. The sensitivity and importance of the coastal landscape is recognised in the following designations affecting the coastal landscape to the north of the site; Maidens to Doonfoot Site of Special Scientific Interest, and two provisional wildlife sites Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks/ Dunure to Drumbane Burn.

#### **2. Planning History:**

An earlier application reference 23/00527/APP for the erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit on land which is the subject of the current application was withdrawn.

### 3. **Description of Proposal:**

Planning permission is sought for the erection of a dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation/welfare unit. The proposed site plan shows the northern portion as the main area to be developed, with an L-shaped building centrally positioned within the site. A large building containing a dwellinghouse, integrated three car garage, and attached animal isolation unit is proposed. The proposed accommodation is single storey, with the dwellinghouse having three bedrooms, office accommodation, and associated living accommodation. The proposed garage is accessible through the dwelling to the south. The proposed animal welfare building is located to the east and attached to the dwelling via a covered walkway. The overall design of the dwelling is modern, with a series of asymmetric and off-set mono-pitched roofs, with rounded and curved walls also being a feature. To the west and north, the roof arrangement overhangs to create a covered partially outdoor area. The proposed external materials comprise of; reconstituted slate roof, artificial slate roof above the connected walkway, a combination of external wall materials including, buff stone cladding, white rendered walls, timber cladding, along with timber cladding for the upstand areas of the wall-head, solar PV panels, and grey framed windows and doors. The submission shows the garden area for the dwelling as being formed to the west, with additional planting proposed in the north-western corner and along the western boundary.

Given the sloping topography of the site, groundworks will be required to accommodate the proposals, with the plans showing a retaining wall forming the majority of the western boundary of the site. A new access formed using a permeable surface is also proposed to serve the development which is shown to extend along the western field boundary and to connect with the existing access serving the nursery. The submitted plans show the intervening agricultural land in between the application site and nursery to the east to remain undeveloped, with the main operational area associated with the farmpark and its associated buildings and activities being located further to the east, and east of the existing nursery.

The submission indicates that the proposed dwellinghouse is to provide additional on-site accommodation intended for the primary manager(s) of the farmpark, and also the replacement of an existing animal isolation/welfare unit so as to support the on-going operation of the nearby farmpark, which as noted above, lies to the east of the site.

### 4. **Consultations:**

**Scottish Water** – no objection.

**AECOM** – suggests clarification is required regarding the ecological/ habitat survey approach which is not described in the method section, and the ground level tree assessment for bat roost suitability was carried out as per Bat Conservation Trust best practice guidance.

**Council's Environmental Health Service**– offered no objection to the earlier application proposals, subject to conditions and/or advisory notes.

**Ayrshire Roads Alliance** – no objection.

**West of Scotland Archaeology Service** – has commented on the application proposals, and has identified a need for archaeological works to be carried out should any permission be granted in respect of the development proposals.

## 5. Submitted Assessments/Reports:

In assessing and reporting on a Planning application the Council is required to provide details of any report or assessment submitted as set out in Regulation 16, Schedule 2, para 4(c) (i) to (iv) of the Development Management Regulations.

The applicant/ agent has submitted the following information in support of the development proposals, and which are summarised below as follows;

### Planning, Design and Access Statement:

- The proposals are considered to accord with the relevant policies of the development plan i.e National Planning Policy 4, and the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2, and also align with the Council's policy guidance;
- The location of the proposals are largely dictated by the requirements of the isolation unit, which requires to be isolated;
- The current isolation facility is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be located close to the on-site residential accommodation;
- Current isolation facility is not adjacent to existing on-site accommodation/ need for proposals to be sited next to one another;
- Proposals allow for the redevelopment and refurbishment of the disused buildings to provide accommodation for managers and employees.
- The proposals are considered to embrace the principles of good design as set out in design guidance;
- Alternative locations have been considered but rejected as unsuitable;
- Proposals will contribute to the on-going operation of the farmpark;
- Dwellinghouse will be occupied by the overall farmpark manager;
- Comments and general disagreement with the earlier advice provided by the Planning Service in terms of the location of the dwellinghouse;

In terms of design and access issues, the statement considers the siting and design approach and rationale of the development proposals to be acceptable with low single storey buildings proposed, which are not considered to adversely impact on the rural setting of the site. While acknowledging the contemporary design of the development, the proposals utilise traditional materials. The proposed planting is considered to improve the biodiversity of the site, and provide additional screening.

### Development Context Statement:

Provides a history and overview of the farmpark enterprise, its contribution to the local economy, with an accompanying map indicating the location of existing development, including the existing managers accommodation which is centrally positioned within the farmpark and its operational buildings, and the location of the existing isolation/ welfare building which is sited to the north of the farmpark, and adjacent to, and parallel to the former disused railway line. With regards to animal welfare, the supporting information notes this to be a 24/7 requirement. The animal isolation/ welfare accommodation is expected to provide the following functions and services, including;

- Isolation for new animal arrivals to the park, including exotic species;
- Isolation and out of hours care of sick and/ or diseased animals;
- Provision of out of hours birthing facilities;
- Accommodation for orphaned animals;

### Ecological Survey:

Notes the proximity of the site to the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the two nearby provisional local wildlife sites to the north, and concludes that the aforementioned designations are very unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development due to weak linkages. No notable or priority habitats are noted to be present within the site, with the grassland site also considered to have limited potential for biodiversity. Adjacent areas of trees and scrub along the former railway line are considered to offer potential for nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, invertebrates and bats. Various mitigation and good practice measures are identified as being necessary during the construction process, should permission be granted for the development.

**6. S75 Obligations:**

In assessing and reporting on a Planning application the Council is required to provide a summary of the terms of any Planning obligation entered into under Section 75 of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act in relation to the grant of Planning permission for the proposed development.

None.

**7. Scottish Ministers Directions:**

In determining a Planning application, the Council is required to provide details of any Direction made by Scottish Ministers under Regulation 30 (Directions requiring consultation), Regulation 31 (Directions requiring information), Regulation 32 (Directions restricting the grant of Planning permission) and Regulation 33 (Directions requiring consideration of condition) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, or under Regulation 50 (that development is EIA development) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

None.

**8. Representations:**

No representations were received.

**9. Development Plan:**

On 13 February 2023, Scottish Ministers published and adopted National Planning Framework 4 ('NPF4'). NPF4 sets out the Scottish Ministers position in relation to land use Planning matters and now forms part of the statutory development plan, along with the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 ('LDP2') (adopted August 2022).

Sections 25(1) and 37(2) of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) indicates that in making any determination under the Planning Acts, regard is to be had to the development plan. The determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The application is determined on this basis.

Legislation states that in the event of any incompatibility between a provision of NPF4 and a provision of an LDP, whichever of them is the later in date is to prevail (The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 ("the 1997 Act"); Section 24(3)). NPF4 was adopted after the adoption of LDP 2, therefore NPF4 will prevail in the event of any incompatibility.

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

The following policies of NPF4 are relevant in the assessment of the application and can be viewed in full online at National Planning Framework 4 - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)). NPF4 confirms that the purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest. NPF4 also maintains a plan-led system and provides a long-term spatial strategy to 2045 based around enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability; driving inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places, which adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment. The provisions of NPF4 must, however, be read and applied as a whole, and as such, no policies should be read in isolation. The application has been considered in this context. An assessment of the proposals against the provisions of NPF4 is set out below.

The following policies of NPF4 are relevant in the assessment of the application and can be viewed in full online at National Planning Framework 4 - ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)):

- National Policies 1 and 2 - Tackling the climate and nature crises, and Climate Mitigation and Adaptation;
- National Policies 3 and 4 - Biodiversity and Natural Places;
- National Policy 5 - Soils;
- National Policy 13 - Sustainable Transport;
- National Policies 14 and 15 - Design, Quality and Place and Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods;
- National Policy 17 - Rural Homes;

Policy 1 gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. Policy 2 seeks to ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible. A healthy natural environment is recognised as a key to reducing emissions. Policies 3 and 4 protect, and seek to positively enhance biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. Further consideration of the potential impact of the development on the natural environment is set out below.

Policy 5 in relation to soils, seeks to protect carbon-rich and valued soils such as prime quality agricultural land, with proposals only being supported where it is for i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site; ii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft or for essential workers for the rural business to be able to live onsite. The application site is categorised as being class 3.1, and therefore is considered to be prime quality agricultural land.

Policy 13 considers the issue of sustainable transport and active travel and is supportive of development in locations which support safe sustainable travel, and travel by means other than private vehicle. Policy 14 seeks to encourage and promote the 'Place Principle' and the six qualities of successful places (i.e. healthy, pleasant, connected, distinctive, sustainable, and adaptable). Proposals which are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area, or inconsistent with the qualities of successful places will not be supported. Policy 15 encourages and promotes the Place Principle as a means to create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their needs within a reasonable distance of their home. In this instance, the proposed location of the dwellinghouse being remote from the existing farmpark due to its location at the opposite and western periphery of the land holding have the potential to result in the occurrence of vehicle trips to and from the proposed accommodation to operate and manage the daily operations of the farm business. While it is acknowledged that trips would also be possible by other means, the occurrence of trips by vehicle to and from the proposed development to the farmpark cannot be ruled out, particularly where an animal might need emergency care and therefore require urgent transfer to the isolation/ welfare facility. The occurrence of daily and potentially numerous trips to, and from the farm park and its associated buildings from the proposed application site, would not otherwise occur if a dwellinghouse, and new animal isolation/welfare buildings are sited at or closer to the existing farm park and its associated operational buildings. Greater weight is given to the fact that the application site is undeveloped greenfield land within a rural location that is remote from the farmstead to which it would be serving. The proposal would introduce development into the landscape where there is none at present, is sited in an isolated position and disconnected physically and visually from the farmstead and existing group of buildings, and is not sited adjacent to or in close proximity of any other buildings. For these reasons, the proposal is not considered to be aligned with the spirit and intention of policies 13 and 14.

With specific regard to new rural homes (policy 17), development proposals will be supported where the development is suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area, and the development involves;

- i. land allocated for housing within the LDP;
- ii. reuse of brownfield land;
- iii. reuse of redundant or unused buildings;
- iv. use of a historic environment asset or enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
- v. supporting the sustainable management of a viable rural business or croft, and there is an essential need for a worker (including those taking majority control of a farm business) to live permanently at or near their place of work;
- vi. a single home for the retirement succession of a viable farm holding;
- vii. subdivision of an existing residential dwelling; and
- viii. reinstatement of a former dwelling house or a one-for-one replacement of an existing permanent

house.

It is considered that the proposal does not align with the opening requirements of the above policy 17 which is for development to be suitably sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area. Notwithstanding the provisions of policies 5 and 17 of the NPF, the proposals nonetheless require to be considered against the provisions of the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Plan 2, and the related policy guidance as part of the recognition by the Scottish Government in the NPF Local Development plans should set out a tailored approach to rural housing, and reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Further consideration of relevant planning issues are set out below. For the reasons set out in this report, there are policy concerns in relation to the proposals.

- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2:

The following policies of the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 are relevant in the assessment of the application and can be viewed in full online at Local development plan 2 - South Ayrshire Council ([south-ayrshire.gov.uk](https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk)):

B8 - Core Principle;

Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development;

Strategic Policy 2: Development Management;

LDP Policy: Rural Housing;

LDP Policy: Natural Heritage;

LDP Policy: Landscape Quality;

LDP Policy: The Coast;

LDP Policy: Land Use and Transport;

Core Principle B8 supports the development of rural housing in appropriate locations in line with the policies of the Local Development Plan, and the related planning guidance regarding Rural Housing. The policy also confirms that proposals for rural housing outwith the aforementioned parameters, or outwith defined settlement boundaries shall not be supported. Further consideration of the proposed development against the Rural Housing policies and guidance is set out below.

The Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development seeks to support the principle of sustainable development by making sure that development respects, protects and where possible, enhances natural, built and cultural heritage resources. Strategic Policy 2: Development Management ensures development is in accordance with the site's land use and will be appropriate in terms of layout, scale, massing, design and materials in relation to their surroundings and surrounding land use, that the proposals do not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby land uses, and are appropriate to the local area in terms of road safety, parking provision and effects on the transport network.

Of particular relevance in the consideration of the proposal are the terms of the LDP Rural Housing Policy. Criterion d. of this policy requires that where a home is essential to a rural business, the developer, must satisfy (the Council) through the submission of a sound business plan, that the business is economically viable and could not be run without residential accommodation. The accompanying text relating to limited extensions to existing and clearly defined nucleated housing clusters is also considered to be relevant in the assessment of the current application. In all instances, the LDP policy confirms that proposals for rural housing must comply with the policy guidance as set out in the associated Rural Housing Planning Guidance note in terms of being appropriately sited and designed. Further consideration of the proposals against the rural housing policies is set out below.

With regard to protected species, LDP Policy: Natural Heritage outlines that planning permission will not be granted for a development that would be likely to have an adverse effect on protected species unless it can be justified in accordance with the relevant protected species legislation. The submission is accompanied by a preliminary ecological report which does not identify any ecological matters which require further attention. In addition, the Natural Heritage Policy seeks to protect national and local designations; as noted above, the site lies close to Maidens to Doonfoot Site of Special Scientific Interest, and two provisional wildlife sites Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks/ Dunure to Drumbane Burn. As the site lies outwith the aforementioned natural heritage designates sites it is not considered that the proposals would adversely impact on those designations, notwithstanding, for the reasons noted within this report, there are other concerns regarding the proposals.

The Landscape Quality Policy seeks to maintain and improve the quality of South Ayrshire's landscape and its distinctive local characteristics. Developments must conserve features that contribute to local distinctiveness, including historic/cultural landscape, patterns of woodland, fields, hedgerows and tree, special qualities of river, estuaries and coasts, skylines and hill features. For proposals within or affecting

Local Landscape Areas (LLA), guidance contained in the 'statement of importance' and management recommendations of the South Ayrshire Local Landscape Designations Review (2018) applies. In the first instance, it is relevant to note that the application site lies within the Brown Carrick Hills and Coast Local Landscape Area (LLA), with it also situated in close proximity to the Heads of Ayr and the well-used beach and coastal path which include the 'Raised Beach Coast and Cliffs' and the 'Coastal Headlands Landscape Character Types'. Further consideration of the impact of the proposals on the landscape of the locale are considered elsewhere in this report.

With regard to the coastal strategy of the LDP, development proposals within the wider coastal area require to be in accordance with the coastal strategy map, so as to protect or improve the scenic and environmental quality of the area. The coastal strategy defines the stretch of coastline from Craig Tara to the Heads of Ayr (which includes the proposed site) as being a partly developed stretch which is characterised by unobtrusive formal visitor facilities and informal recreation. In recognition of the partly developed nature of the coastal area at this location, the coastal strategy encourages only, very small developments which integrate well with existing land uses and which complement the surrounding environment. 'Very small scale' is defined as facilities that would not require any substantial building works. As noted above, the site is relatively large in size, and extends to approximately 0.6 ha (6,100 sq metres). The proposal, as a whole, is for the development of buildings in the north-western corner, and the formation of an elongated access road at the western periphery of the applicant's land holding and in a location where currently no buildings exist. Given the size of the site, and characteristics of the development, it is not considered that the proposals can be suitably described as being of a very small scale. Accordingly, the proposal is not considered to align with the provisions of the LDP Coast Policy; the application has been considered in this context.

Finally, the development proposal requires to be considered against the provisions of LDP2 policy in relation to land use and transport which recognises the inter-relationship between land use planning and transport. The policy requires for development to provide parking which reflects the role of the development, and which keeps any negative effects of road traffic on the environment to a minimum. A new 170-metre-long access track is proposed from the existing access shared with the nursery which leads to and from the A719 coastal road to the south of the site, with off-road parking being accommodated within the application site. The Ayrshire Roads Alliance offers no objections to the proposal from a technical perspective and has recommended conditions and advisory notes, should the application be approved. Notwithstanding, there are concerns from a planning perspective that the proposed new access/ driveway which reaches a length of approximately 170 metres from the road to the application site, is excessive and uncharacteristic for the locale, and would contribute irreversibly to the suburbanisation of the countryside. Additionally, and as noted above, the proposals have the potential to result in the occurrence of vehicle trips to and from the proposed accommodation to operate and manage the daily operations of the farm business. While it is acknowledged that trips would also be possible by other means, the occurrence of trips by vehicle to and from the proposed development to the farm park cannot be ruled out, particularly where an animal might need emergency care and therefore require urgent transfer to the isolation/ welfare facility. The occurrence of daily and potentially numerous trips to, and from the farm park and its associated buildings from the proposed application site, would not otherwise occur if a dwellinghouse, and new animal isolation/welfare buildings are sited at or closer to the existing farm park and its associated operational buildings.

For the reasons noted elsewhere within this report there are policy concerns in relation to the development proposal, in so far as it is not considered that the proposal is in accordance with the provisions of the LDP and in particular the related policy in relation to Rural Housing. Further consideration of the proposal against the provisions of the Council's Rural Housing SPG, and also site specific aspects relating to the proposal are considered further below.

#### **10. Other Relevant Policy Considerations (including Government Guidance):**

- Scottish Government Planning Advice Note 72 - Housing in the Countryside;

PAN 72 sets out the key design principles which need to be taken into account by prospective applicants' and agents' responsible for the preparation of development proposals. PAN 72 provides advice in relation to the siting and design of rural housing and seeks to ensure that rural housing is of a good quality and which respects the Scottish landscape and building traditions. Therefore, PAN 72 is considered to be relevant in the consideration of this application.

In particular, PAN 72 (page 7) acknowledges that buildings in rural areas can often be seen over long distances, and that buildings are there for a long time. For these reasons, PAN 72 concludes that careful design is essential, and that single houses need to be planned, with the location carefully selected and designed so as to be appropriate to the locality. Even where sites are less visible, PAN 72 states that such sites will still require a significant level of skill to assimilate buildings into the landscape. The application has been considered in this context, and for the reasons noted elsewhere in this report, there are concerns in relation to the siting of the proposed dwellinghouse and associated animal isolation/welfare building.

- Developing with Nature Guidance (NatureScot):

The above provides guidance on securing positive effects for biodiversity from local development to support NPF4 policy 3(c). This guidance has been published in support of policy 3(c) of National Planning Framework 4 in relation to planning applications. While the applicant has submitted a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, there are other concerns in relation to the proposals, for the reasons noted within this report.

- South Ayrshire Council Planning Guidance - Rural Housing:

The Rural Housing policy guidance sets out the policy requirements which new houses serving rural based businesses are required to fulfil, and states that "The Council may give favourable consideration to the provision of on-site residential accommodation for a worker employed in an existing rural business, providing that;

- a) It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that the business cannot operate without continuous on site attendance and that there are no alternative means of operating the business; and
- b) There is no other existing accommodation that could be used to serve the business; and
- c) No existing dwelling serving or connected to the business or holding has been sold or in some other way separated or alienated from the holding in the previous five years; and
- d) Any proposed buildings or structures form or complement a coherent group of buildings and are not visually intrusive.

Note: the requirement for on-site accommodation may be either as a result of the continuous operation of the existing business, or due to proposed expansion or diversification of that business.

In all cases, proposals for new residential accommodation in rural areas, including those demonstrated as being required to operate a rural business, must accord with the Council's design guidance, contained in this supplementary guidance.

In considering the proposed development against the above policy of the policy guidance, the following is noted;

It is accepted that the farmpark enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional residential property, and therefore, in principle, the Service could be minded to support the applicant's case for an additional dwellinghouse to serve the farming operations, however, proposals for an additional residential dwelling require to be appropriately sited so as to consolidate and reinforce the farming operations, and to accord with the Council's Rural Housing related policy guidance. An assessment of the proposal against the provisions of the Council's Rural Housing guidance is set out further below.

Where a dwellinghouse is required in connection with the operation of an existing rural based business, then it is reasonable to expect that any new dwelling would be sited adjacent to the existing steading so as to form and/ or reinforce a compact operational base. In contrast, the proposed new house and associated isolation/ welfare building is not located within or adjacent to the existing operational base to the east, but is located to the west, and in a location where no agricultural buildings are currently present.

In terms of the proposed animal isolation/ welfare accommodation, it is unclear why this is sited remotely from the existing buildings and operational areas, such as enclosures where the animals are housed. The presence of an existing isolation/ welfare facility located to the north of the farm park, and parallel to the disused railway line, is considered to reinforce that there is no reason as to why a replacement or upgraded animal isolation/ welfare facility could not be provided in an alternative location in or around the existing farmpark buildings, and which could equally meet the applicant's needs in terms of providing a modern suitable premises, in close proximity to the animals requiring care and attention, without requiring a remote location at the western periphery of the farm holding.



It is noted that the applicant/ agent asserts that the proposed isolation facility requires an isolated location and that that location requires to be adjacent to the managers accommodation. In contrast, it is considered that the term 'isolation' relates to the intended purpose and function of the building and not to any locational requirement; this is clearly evidenced in that an isolation facility currently exists within the existing farmpark. Therefore, the presence of the existing isolation/ welfare facility is considered to undermine the applicant's case for alternative premises being located remotely. The applicant's supporting information (as noted above) also sets out a series of functions and services to be carried out at the isolation/ welfare facility. It is considered that the function and services to be carried out at the isolation/ welfare facility could be equally fulfilled by locating a new or renovated facility within, or closer to the building grouping associated with the farmpark, and therefore, the proposed isolation/ welfare facility need not be sited as remotely as the applicant/ agent suggest. In terms of the need for the managers accommodation to be site adjacent to the isolation/ welfare facility, it is noted that presently, the two are located a short distance apart, approximately 60 metres at their closest. Similarly, it is therefore feasible for the farmpark to operate with a short distance separating the managers accommodation, and the isolation/ welfare building. For the reasons noted within this report, the applicant/ agent has been encouraged to explore potential alternative locations for additional on-site accommodation, and the associated isolation/ welfare facility in a less remote location, and closer to the existing operational buildings of the farm park.

For the reason noted within this report, there are concerns in relation to the proposed siting of the dwellinghouse and operational building due to the proposed buildings not being located so as to consolidate and reinforce the existing building grouping at the farmpark which lies to the east, and which is the operational base of the enterprise. In contrast, the application site stands alone at the western periphery of the land holding, and is isolated and separated from the existing operations by intervening land, and a children's nursery. The existence of the children's nursery in terms of its building, outdoor space, and the associated parking area is considered to effectively separate and delineate in physical and visual terms, the land uses relating to the farmpark to the east, and the agricultural land to the west. The proposals, if approved, would result in operational buildings being provided at the western periphery of the land holding, and in a location where current no buildings exist.

Therefore, for the purposes of assessing this application, it is not considered that the proposal is justified on the basis of the need for a dwellinghouse and isolation/ welfare facility to be provided in the location proposed. In this regard, it is considered that there is sufficient land and buildings around the existing operational buildings at the farmpark so as to enable the applicant to provide for an additional dwelling and any new and/ or upgraded additional operational buildings, as required. The application has been considered in this context.

Additionally, it is considered that the existing building grouping located to the east is likely to be less visually obtrusive than the application site, which comprises of a portion of a larger field where there are currently no services or buildings, and therefore the positioning of additional buildings at, or in closer proximity of the farmpark, offers the best opportunity to consolidate and reinforce the existing building grouping at the steading as the operational locus of existing activities. In this context, a revised application with an alternatively sited dwellinghouse and operational building is considered to be preferential from a landscape setting perspective, and would not undermine the coastal policy of the LDP, or character of the area, in terms of avoiding substantial buildings and engineering works to form the development. While the proposed development is to be set down in the landscape, the general character of the area is of visually prominent open and undeveloped countryside, with extensive views to the east and west along the coastal road, and northwards towards the sea, and as such, there remains potential for the proposals to be viewed, if not fully, at least partially, outwith the confines of the application site.

For the reasons noted below, there are also concerns in relation to the contemporary design of the buildings. With regards to design, the Council's Rural Housing Policy provides advice on the siting and design of new housing, which is materially significant in the consideration of the applications. The aforementioned policy guidance acknowledges that planning policies controlling the siting and design of new housing development in the countryside play an important role in maintaining its character, and that when considering new housing in the countryside, it is important that cognisance is taken of the heritage of an area in order to preserve and enhance the countryside of South Ayrshire's countryside. Other rural residential properties within the immediate locale are noted to typically reflect the simplicity of scale and form of traditional rural domestic architecture. However, it is noted that the submitted drawings propose a dwellinghouse of a modern design and appearance, more akin to a suburban dwellinghouse, rather than being reflective of the more traditional scale, form and proportions of typical rural properties in the immediate locale. The rural vernacular of the houses in the immediate local is more typically formed by small to modest sized farmhouses, cottages and/or converted former out-buildings with a simple, traditional rectangular and elongated plan form. In contrast the proposed house and interconnected isolation/ welfare building is of a more elaborate and contemporary design, and in particular, the off-set

asymmetric mono-pitched roof arrangement, curved features, and extensive scale and form of the dwellinghouse and attached building are not typical of the immediate locale. The non-traditional design, along with the visual prominence of the locale give rise to concerns that the proposals are incongruous for the proposed location.

While the Council's Rural Housing Policy does allow for innovative design solutions, this primary consideration is that the design requires to have cognisance of the surrounding environment. As noted above, the overwhelming character and rural vernacular of the houses in the immediate local is more typically formed by small to modest sized farmhouses, cottages and/or converted former out-buildings with a simple, traditional rectangular and elongated plan form; the application is considered in this context.

For completeness, the proposals have also been considered against the Council's policies in relation to extensions to a cluster of existing residential properties. In this regard it is noted that, the application site stands in isolation, and is bound predominantly by agricultural land, and is separated from nearby properties and buildings by intervening agricultural land, and alternative uses not related to the farmpark. Given the afore-mentioned, the proposed development does not represent the sensitive in-filling of an existing cluster. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed site could be considered to represent a cluster for the purposes of considering this application.

Given the above concerns, the applicant/ agent has been recommended to withdraw the current application so as to explore with the applicant, the potential to re-site an alternatively designed dwellinghouse and welfare building on land at or closer to the existing operational buildings associated with the existing farmpark, so as focus and reinforce the existing building grouping as the operational base of the farming enterprise. As the application has not been withdrawn, it requires to be determined as submitted.

- South Ayrshire Council Planning Guidance - Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments;

The Council's Planning Guidance (SPG) 'Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments' is relevant in the consideration of this application. This policy provides guidelines on plot spacing for new residential dwellings including minimum private garden sizes. This policy guidance also recommends a minimum of 9 metre depth for rear gardens. This policy also sets out expected private open space standards within new residential developments, which for detached properties extends to a minimum of 1.5 times the ground floor area and in any case, not less than, 100 square metres. While the development proposals might be capable of meeting with the above policy provisions, for the reasons noted elsewhere in this report, there are concerns in relation to the proposals.

## **11. Assessment (including other material considerations):**

Planning permission is sought for the erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation/welfare unit. For the reasons noted elsewhere in this report, there are over-riding concerns regarding the siting of a dwellinghouse and operational building in the location proposed, and in particular due to it being remote from the operational base of the farmpark, its associated buildings, and also from a landscape setting and non-traditional design perspective. The premise underpinning the strategy and policies of the adopted Local Plan accords with the objective to rural housing, is to curtail sporadic development within the countryside; thereby protecting the countryside for its own sake whilst also ensuring that an unsustainable increase in infrastructure and resource demands and costs are occasioned by reason of the unrestrained proliferation of development in the countryside.

While the submission is accompanied by various supplementary information, the application requires to be considered on its own merit, and none of the information contained therein is considered to out-weigh the above noted policy provisions of National Planning Framework 4 and the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2, and also the related policy guidance. Each application requires to be considered on its own merit, and against the provisions of the development plan and any relevant material planning considerations; the application has been considered in this context.

The primacy of the development plan is noted above, and the application has been considered in this context. An assessment of the development proposal is set out in this report, and as already noted, there are policy objections to the proposal which lead to the conclusion that the development is contrary to the provisions the National Planning Framework 4, the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan, and

also the Council's Policy Guidance in relation to Rural Housing which supplements formal policy, and that there are no material planning considerations that would out-weigh these provisions. It should also be noted that, the purpose of planning (as set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019) is to manage the development and use of land in the long term public interest. Given the above assessment and having balanced the applicants' rights against the general interest, it is recommended that the application be refused, for the reasons below.

**12. Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the application is refused.

**Reasons for refusal:**

- (1) That the development proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), specifically National Policy 14 Design, Quality and Place; National Policy 17 Rural Homes; South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP2) Core Principle B8, LDP policies Rural Housing and Landscape Quality; South Ayrshire Council's Rural Housing Guidance and the provisions of Scottish Planning Advice Note PAN 72 in relation to Housing in the Countryside, as the proposed dwellinghouse does not form or complement a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, is visually prominent and uncharacteristic to the detriment of the rural landscape setting at the locality and no robust justification having been provided for a departure from these policies.
- (2) That the development proposal is contrary to the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan Rural Housing policy due to the proposed dwellinghouse and isolation facility not forming or complementing a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and not being visually intrusive, and no justification having been provided for a departure from this policy.
- (3) That the development proposal is contrary to the Planning Guidance in relation to Rural Housing due to not being sited so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and due to not constituting development within an existing cluster or the sensitive infilling of an available gap site which consolidates existing properties within a cluster, and no justification having been provided for a departure from the Rural Housing planning guidance.

**Advisory Notes:**

None.

**List of Plans Determined:**

Plan Type	Reference	Version No.	Received Date
Drawing	P001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	P002		22.02.2024
Drawing	SL001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL002	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL003	rev A	22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Design & Access Statement + Appendix		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Development Context Statement		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Ecology Survey		22.02.2024

**Reason for Decision (where approved):**

N/A

**Equalities Impact Assessment:**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required because the proposed development is not considered to give rise to any differential impacts on those with protected characteristics.

<b><i>Decision Agreed By:</i></b>	<i>Appointed Officer</i>
<b><i>Date:</i></b>	<i>28 May 2024</i>



County Buildings Wellington Square Ayr KA7 1DR Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100634972-004

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application.

## Applicant or Agent Details

Are you an applicant or an agent? \* (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

☐ Applicant ☒ Agent

## Agent Details

Please enter Agent details

Company/Organisation:	Hobson Architects		
Ref. Number:		You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
First Name: *	nicholas john	Building Name:	seacliff
Last Name: *	hobson	Building Number:	
Telephone Number: *		Address 1 (Street): *	eglinton terrace
Extension Number:		Address 2:	
Mobile Number:		Town/City: *	skelmorlie
Fax Number:		Country: *	Scotland
		Postcode: *	PA17 5EP
Email Address: *			
Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? *			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation/Corporate entity			

## Applicant Details

Please enter Applicant details

Title:	Mr	You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
Other Title:		Building Name:	Laigh Kyleston Farm
First Name: *	Craig	Building Number:	
Last Name: *	Rankin	Address 1 (Street): *	Heads of Ayr Farm Park
Company/Organisation	Heads of Ayr Farm Park (Scotland)	Address 2:	Dunure Road
Telephone Number: *		Town/City: *	Alloway
Extension Number:		Country: *	Scotland
Mobile Number:		Postcode: *	KA7 4LD
Fax Number:			
Email Address: *			

## Site Address Details

Planning Authority:

South Ayrshire Council

Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available):

Address 1:

LAIGH KYLESTON FARM

Address 2:

Address 3:

Address 4:

Address 5:

Town/City/Settlement:

AYR

Post Code:

KA7 4LD

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

Northing

618119

Easting

229778

## Description of Proposal

Please provide a description of your proposal to which your review relates. The description should be the same as given in the application form, or as amended with the agreement of the planning authority: \*  
(Max 500 characters)

Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit

## Type of Application

What type of application did you submit to the planning authority? \*



Application for planning permission (including householder application but excluding application to work minerals).



Application for planning permission in principle.



Further application.



Application for approval of matters specified in conditions.

What does your review relate to? \*

- ☒ Refusal Notice.
- ☐ Grant of permission with Conditions imposed.
- ☐ No decision reached within the prescribed period (two months after validation date or any agreed extension) – deemed refusal.

## Statement of reasons for seeking review

You must state in full, why you are seeking a review of the planning authority's decision (or failure to make a decision). Your statement must set out all matters you consider require to be taken into account in determining your review. If necessary this can be provided as a separate document in the 'Supporting Documents' section: \* (Max 500 characters)

Note: you are unlikely to have a further opportunity to add to your statement of appeal at a later date, so it is essential that you produce all of the information you want the decision-maker to take into account.

You should not however raise any new matter which was not before the planning authority at the time it decided your application (or at the time expiry of the period of determination), unless you can demonstrate that the new matter could not have been raised before that time or that it not being raised before that time is a consequence of exceptional circumstances.

Please refer to the Statement in Support of the Notice of Review Application which is included within the submission documents

Have you raised any matters which were not before the appointed officer at the time the Determination on your application was made? \*

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, you should explain in the box below, why you are raising the new matter, why it was not raised with the appointed officer before your application was determined and why you consider it should be considered in your review: \* (Max 500 characters)

Please provide a list of all supporting documents, materials and evidence which you wish to submit with your notice of review and intend to rely on in support of your review. You can attach these documents electronically later in the process: \* (Max 500 characters)

Location plan, Proposed site plan 1-500, Proposed site plan 1-1000, Proposed floor plans and section, Proposed elevations, Planning Design and Access Statement, Planning Design and Access Statement (appendix), Development Context Statement, Ecology Report, Report of Handling, Decision Notice, Statement in Support of the Notice of Review, Statement in Support of the Notice of Review-appendix, Extract Local Development Plan 2 Page 97 Appendix B: Coastal Strategy Diagram,

## Application Details

Please provide the application reference no. given to you by your planning authority for your previous application.

24/00127/APP

What date was the application submitted to the planning authority? \*

21/02/2024

What date was the decision issued by the planning authority? \*

28/05/2024



## Review Procedure

The Local Review Body will decide on the procedure to be used to determine your review and may at any time during the review process require that further information or representations be made to enable them to determine the review. Further information may be required by one or a combination of procedures, such as: written submissions; the holding of one or more hearing sessions and/or inspecting the land which is the subject of the review case.

Can this review continue to a conclusion, in your opinion, based on a review of the relevant information provided by yourself and other parties only, without any further procedures? For example, written submission, hearing session, site inspection. \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

In the event that the Local Review Body appointed to consider your application decides to inspect the site, in your opinion:

Can the site be clearly seen from a road or public land? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is it possible for the site to be accessed safely and without barriers to entry? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

## Checklist – Application for Notice of Review

Please complete the following checklist to make sure you have provided all the necessary information in support of your appeal. Failure to submit all this information may result in your appeal being deemed invalid.

Have you provided the name and address of the applicant?. \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you provided the date and reference number of the application which is the subject of this review? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name and address and indicated whether any notice or correspondence required in connection with the review should be sent to you or the applicant? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Have you provided a statement setting out your reasons for requiring a review and by what procedure (or combination of procedures) you wish the review to be conducted? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: You must state, in full, why you are seeking a review on your application. Your statement must set out all matters you consider require to be taken into account in determining your review. You may not have a further opportunity to add to your statement of review at a later date. It is therefore essential that you submit with your notice of review, all necessary information and evidence that you rely on and wish the Local Review Body to consider as part of your review.

Please attach a copy of all documents, material and evidence which you intend to rely on (e.g. plans and Drawings) which are now the subject of this review \*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: Where the review relates to a further application e.g. renewal of planning permission or modification, variation or removal of a planning condition or where it relates to an application for approval of matters specified in conditions, it is advisable to provide the application reference number, approved plans and decision notice (if any) from the earlier consent.

## Declare – Notice of Review

I/We the applicant/agent certify that this is an application for review on the grounds stated.

Declaration Name: Mr nicholas john hobson

Declaration Date: 22/08/2024

**NOTICE OF REVIEW  
IN RELATION TO THE REFUSAL BY  
SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR  
THE ERECTION OF A DWELLINGHOUSE AND  
REPLACEMENT OF ANIMAL ISOLATION UNIT  
ON LAND AT HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
LAIGH KYLESTON FARM, A719 FROM  
DUNURE ROAD TO AYR ROAD, FISHERTON, AYR, KA7 4LD**

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF NO 24/00127/APP**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT**

**Report Prepared by:**

**MICHAEL S EVANS  
BA (Econ); Dip TP, MRTPI, MCIM  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
meicplan.associates  
"TY-NEWYDD"  
11 MURCHIE DRIVE  
KINGS MEADOW  
PRESTWICK  
KA9 2ND**

**NICK HOBSON  
BA(Hons) Dip Arch RIBA RIAS  
HOBSON ARCHITECTS  
SEACLIFF  
EGLINTON TERRACE  
SKELMORLIE  
PA17 5EP**



**August 2024**

**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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**(i) CONCLUSIONS**

- Local Development Plan 2, Coastal Strategy Diagram, confirms that, in terms of type of development, both Heads of Ayr and Craig Tara fall within the intensive category

This, in our opinion, provides the appropriate policy context/background for a review/assessment of the proposals.

The proposals should therefore be assessed within this policy context and the boundary of the Farm Park as defined in Figs 1 and 2.

- The Planning Service has, in the main, approached the housing element of the proposals as if they were in a 'typical' countryside location, with which we would not agree
- On 22 September 1992, consent for Change of Use of agricultural land and outline planning permission to form a 'Children's Farm' was granted. Since then, Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been one of the major economic development success stories in South Ayrshire. An important example of economic resilience, it has grown and developed when frequently overall economic circumstances have posed significant challenges
- And, as Board Members will be aware, Heads of Ayr Farm Park has become established as a 'significant leisure/ recreation/tourism facility'
- In the past 12 months, it has won the following awards:
  - Tripadvisor – Travellers' Choice, Top 10% Worldwide, 2024
  - Tripadvisor – Travellers' Choice, Top 10% Worldwide, 2023, reflecting a level of attraction that extends beyond the local.
- The proposals will therefore contribute to the further strengthening of the overall operation of the Farm Park. The proposed (overall) Manager's

**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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Dwellinghouse, along with the replacement Animal Isolation Unit, represent a significant component of future-proofing the whole enterprise

- Members of the LRB will note that the Planning Service, on page 8 of the Report of Handling, states that ‘It is accepted that the farm park enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional residential property’
- The issue would appear to be therefore not one of opposition to the principles of a new house but one of where this might be located
- In the opinion of the Planning Service, the proposals are viewed as being in an unsatisfactory location because they are:
  - (i) isolated
  - (ii) visually prominent
  - (iii) uncharacteristic
  - (iv) and, as a result, do not conform to the requirements of Rural Housing Policy
- Taking these matters in turn, on the matter of isolation initially:
  - Crucial to the site-selection process is the fact that the requirement is not solely for a house but for a house intended to be the Farm Park Manager’s House, along with the replacement Animal Isolation Unit for animal welfare reasons to be located as close as possible to each other

The proposed Manager’s House and Animal Isolation Unit, for the reasons set out elsewhere in this Statement, need to be close together but also, with the latter use, requiring a level of physical isolation from other uses.

**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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- A location within/among or close to existing buildings was therefore not an option but this was, in any case, academic because, as Fig 2 confirms, there were none
- This practical requirement was always going to limit the number of options available within the Farm Park
- Account was clearly going to have to be taken of the current land use situation within the Farm Park as a whole. Figs 1 and 2 confirmed that 95% was otherwise in use
- The choice of location, in the event, was therefore limited to the site 'selected' in the north-west corner of the enterprise
- Turning to the matter of visual prominence, being on the edge of the Farm Park and adjacent countryside, every effort has been made to limit visual impact
  - The proposed site will therefore sit tightly into the north-west corner of the Farm Park beyond the crown of high ground and in the backslope down to the abandoned railway line, the trees along which provide a backdrop/ screen
- And, on the matter of being 'uncharacteristic', the proposals do take on the low profile characteristics of older buildings in the area, significantly more in character than the proposals, for example, for Drumbain, Fisherton – only 1.9 miles away
  - Rural Planning Guidance essentially is about housing in the countryside

Notwithstanding that, it no longer enjoys statutory status, the substantial consideration here is LDP2, Appendix B: Coastal

**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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Development. Coastal Strategy Diagram recognises that Heads of Ayr, with Craig Tara, fall within the 'intensive' category.

The 'standard' rural housing guidelines do not therefore, in our opinion, apply to the proposals.

The proposals are, in any case, not just for a house. They should be judged/assessed within their policy context, i.e. within the boundaries of Heads of Ayr Farm Park.

On that basis, our overall conclusion is that they are compatible with the requirements of the Development Plan and the relevant policies of both Local Development Plan 2 and National Planning Framework 4

**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION /TERMS OF REFERENCE / THE PROPOSALS**

**Terms of Reference**

On 22 February 2024, an application was submitted by Hobson Architects per Nick Hobson, Seacliff, Eglinton Terrace, Skelmorlie, PA17 5EP on behalf of Craig and Edna Rankin, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD, Planning Application Ref No 24/00127/APP.

This Notice of Review has been prepared by Michael S Evans, Planning Consultant, and Nick Hobson, Hobson Architects, as instructed by the Applicants and is submitted in response to the Council's decision to refuse the application on a delegated basis on 28 May 2024.

The contents of the Appointed Officer's Report of Handling (which have been submitted along with this Notice) are viewed as significant material considerations.

Parts 5.0 and 6.0 of this Notice of Review Supporting Statement are focused substantially not only on the reasons for refusal but how these were arrived at.

We would also advise Review Body members that this Supporting Statement should be read in conjunction with the Planning, Design and Access Statement that formed part of the refused planning application.

The purpose of this Statement is therefore to reconfirm the conclusions arrived at in the Planning, Design and Access Statement that formed part of refused application, 24/00127/APP, in that, in our opinion, the facts on the ground in relation to the proposals confirm that they are:

- (i) consistent with the requirements of the relevant policies of the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2, Supplementary



**Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

---

Planning Guidance: 'House Alterations and Extensions', and  
Guidance: Rural Housing

- (ii) consistent with the requirements of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and
- (iii) have taken into account relevant outcomes from material considerations

**The Applicants**

Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd per Craig and Edna Rankin, Laigh Kyleston, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA6 4LD. Both Craig and Edna Rankin, who opened the Park in 1993, have been at the forefront of developing what was to become one of the area's most successful enterprises. Both with a farming background, they are now joined by their three sons, Greg, Ben and Max, who collectively take a very hands-on approach to management.

Details of the current and future intentions re the business are to be found in the Development Context Statement which formed part of the Planning Application.

**The Proposed Site**

The proposed site is irregular in shape and, as shown in Planning Application Drawing No SL001, sits within a larger trapezoidal field lying in the south-west corner of the Farm Park.

The existing A719 runs along the southern edge of the Farm Park, with the existing vehicle access serving the Nursery nearby to the north east. The proposed access for the new development will be just within this existing access point. The access route will then run along the western boundary of the Farm Park to the proposed site in the north-western corner of the field.

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**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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To the north of the development site lies the former coastal railway line which is now defined, in part, by a belt of mature and semi-mature deciduous trees.

To the west is the existing fence line to the adjoining agricultural land outwith the Farm Park. To the south and east, the ground slopes away gently to the east and the access road leading down to the Nursery and beyond.

**The Proposals**

The planning application includes two important elements – a new House and a replacement Animal Isolation Unit, the purpose of which is to provide a range of services, including:

1. for new animals, those requiring a Zoo Licence, arriving at the Farm Park for the first time to be kept separate. They will be given time to rest, checked over health wise, wormed, dosed and vaccinated as required before joining the main park
2. isolation of any animals suspected of carrying any disease, such as bird flu
3. providing for animals requiring out-of-hours attention and nursed through ill health
4. providing facilities for birthing of animals that may well need assistance after hours
5. providing accommodation for orphaned animals handed in by the public that require hand rearing
6. providing space for isolation of the more exotic species before they leave the park to go to other licensed premises to assist in the preservation of particular species

In addition, the building itself will have:

- (a) warm isolation rooms
- (b) food preparation kitchen and food storage facilities, fridges for food, etc.

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- (c) animal washing/showering areas
- (d) medical treatment room
- (e) two loose boxes for larger animals
- (f) toilet and washing facilities for staff and vet

Currently, the building used for the purposes described above is not purpose-built and essentially no longer fit for purpose. In addition, its location, close to other uses, in particular the adjacent Craig Tara Holiday Park, especially in view of the consent granted for 100+ additional static caravan pitches immediately adjacent (Planning Application Ref No 22/00182/APPM), means that levels of required 'isolation' already compromised are further compromised.

Copies of Planning Application Drawing Nos P001-A, P002, SL001-A, SL002-A and SL003-A have been included as part of the request for review package.

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## **2.0 PLANNING HISTORY**

On 22 September 1992, consent for 'Change of use of agricultural land and outline planning permission to form Children's Farm' was granted by the former Kyle and Carrick District Council for the area shown in Fig 1.

**Fig 1 shows the location of uses within the Farm Park, confirming that the overwhelming part of the area shown is now currently in use.**

The Farm Park opened in May 1993.

The Heads of Ayr Farm Park Development Context Statement, February 2024, which formed part of the refused planning application, provides details of development since then and a description of future aspirations. This has been submitted for the Local Review Body's consideration.

The latest addition to the range of activities comes with the consent granted to the Nursery School extension, Planning Application Ref No 23/00099/APP in mid 2023.

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### **3.0 AREA CONTEXT AND SITE ANALYSIS**

#### **Area Context**

As Figs 1 and 2 and Planning Application Drawing No SL001 confirm, the site is located within Heads of Ayr Farm Park.

The Farm Park's main entrance is approximately 4.5 miles from Ayr Town Centre and 1 mile from the southern edge of the settlement of Ayr as defined in LDP2.

#### **Landscape Context**

In broad landscape terms, the site falls within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 59, i.e. 'Raised Beach, Coast and Cliffs' as defined by the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment which, it is understood, is recognised by South Ayrshire Council as a major reference source and has been used by them to determine the proposals.

Among the key characteristics described by NatureScot are:

- (i) ***Raised beach, visible as a level shelf, backed by steep, sometimes craggy escarpment representing the former cliff line, above which lies more gently rising land.*** The Farm Park, as a whole, including the proposed site, along with the neighbouring Craig Tara Holiday Park, is to be found substantially within the area of this latter feature. The low-level nature of the existing buildings – the Farm Park 'components' being substantially repurposed farm buildings – ensure a reduced impact on this overall setting. **As the Planning Application Drawings confirm, this has underpinned the approach taken to the proposals.**

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- (ii) ***Views tend to be longer distance and focused seaward.*** This remains the case despite the comparatively extensive scale of development within both the Farm Park and Craig Tara, **and the current proposals are designed to respect this overall setting.**

### **Settlement Pattern**

The Landscape Character Assessment also provides an opinion on settlement pattern within LCT 59.

**Whatever the 'original' settlement pattern might have been here at one stage, the facts on the ground bear witness to significant change as a consequence of the combined impact of both Craig Tara and Farm Park developments. This, in our opinion, is a particularly important material consideration.**

Importantly in this context, The Coastal Strategy Diagram on page 97 of Local Development Plan 2, while the published diagram is not to scale and details a little difficult to confirm, it shows the overall location for both Heads of Ayr Farm Park and Craig Tara Holiday Park as being either 'partly developed' or 'undeveloped'.

**Also importantly, and in addition, whichever of these two categories might apply, the map also shows a circle located 'offshore' to the north of the coastline and this is coloured 'intensive', beside which the names Craig Tara and Heads of Ayr appear.**

**Quite clearly, the nature and scale of development within both set these apart from the settlement pattern elsewhere in LCT 59 and this difference is recognised by the status given both by the Coastal Strategy Diagram.**

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**Although both are technically in the countryside and the overall context is rural, neither Craig Tara nor Heads of Ayr Farm Park are typical of the broader area.**

Both are otherwise examples of 'significant leisure/recreation/tourism facilities'.

**The Site**

The details of the site and how the proposals have responded to the requirements for the context are described earlier.

**The Site Selection Process**

**The existing and emerging development patterns within the Farm Park, as shown in Fig 2, confirm that the only opportunities that could meet the requirements of residential amenity and the requirements of the Animal Isolation Unit together were in the west and, indeed, the extreme south-west corner.**

In truth therefore, the actual options were extremely limited, including the fact that proximity of the Animal Isolation Unit to the Manager's House was a key consideration.

**Indeed, it was early concluded that the proposals could not sit comfortably within the operational area of the Farm Park if a site was to fulfil the combined requirements of the Animal Isolation Unit, together with the residential amenity requirements of the proposed House.**

In the process of site selection, the existing location of the Isolation Unit was quickly dismissed as an option because of this.

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The only possible realistic search area therefore was in the west of the Park which is made up substantially of paddocks, but with a specific purpose that is to fulfil the requirements of locating particular species.

The Planning Service had previously expressed its opposition to development north of the abandoned railway line.

**The proposed site therefore emerged as the 'least used' option within this area.**

**What is difficult to understand is the fact that the Report of Handling makes NO REFERENCE to the process of site selection/assessment. Is it perhaps possible that its conclusions were too uncomfortable for them to acknowledge? Whatever, the response of the Planning Service was unsubstantiated.**

The search for a site also required, as far as it was possible at this point in time, the redevelopment of those buildings currently providing a range of uses to the west and that this redevelopment might result in an overall shift to the west of this complex.

The approach taken to aspects of the details of the proposed Manager's House does, however, represent a degree of departure from this 'template and the explanation for this is provided in our response to Guidance: Rural Housing and in Part 5.0.

Nonetheless, on the matter of height and subsequent impact on the landscape/setting, the proposals, like the other buildings in the Farm Park, will be low so as not to offend the key characteristics of the landscape context described by NatureScot. This is illustrated by the details shown in the Planning Application Drawings.



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**The proposed Manager's House and Animal Isolation Unit, for the reasons set out elsewhere in this Statement, need to be close together but, also with the latter use, requiring a level of physical isolation from other uses.**

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**Fig 1: Range and Extent of Uses with Heads of Ayr Farm Park**



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**Fig 2: Search Area for Site of the Proposals**





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**4.0 THE COUNCIL'S REASONS FOR REFUSAL**

- (1) That the development proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), specifically National Policy 14 Design, Quality and Place; National Policy 17 Rural Homes; South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP2) Core Principle B8, LDP policies Rural Housing and Landscape Quality; South Ayrshire Council's Rural Housing Guidance and the provisions of Scottish Planning Advice Note PAN 72 in relation to Housing in the Countryside, as the proposed dwellinghouse does not form or complement a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, is visually prominent and uncharacteristic to the detriment of the rural landscape setting at the locality and no robust justification having been provided for a departure from these policies*
- (2) That the development proposal is contrary to the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan Rural Housing policy due to the proposed dwellinghouse and isolation facility not forming or complementing a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and not being visually intrusive, and no justification having been provided for a departure from this policy*
- (3) That the development proposal is contrary to the Planning Guidance in relation to Rural Housing due to not being sited so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and due to not constituting development within an existing cluster or the sensitive infilling of an available gap site which consolidates existing properties within a cluster, and no justification having been provided for a departure from the Rural Housing planning guidance*

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## **5.0 THE REASONS FOR SEEKING A REVIEW**

- First of all, a point on which the Planning Service and the Applicants agree. The Report of Handling on page 8 states *'It is accepted that the farm park enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional dwellinghouse to serve the farming operations'*

Indeed, we maintain that a new Dwelling, in conjunction with the replacement Animal Isolation Unit, are important requirements for an expanding business.

- The Farm Park has developed into a 'significant leisure/recreation/tourism' destination within the boundaries described in the refused planning application

Missing from the policies referred to in Reason for Refusal 1, as is the case for Reasons for Refusal 2 and 3, is reference to Local Development Plan 2, Appendix B: Coastal Development, although it is mentioned briefly in the Report of Handling. The Coastal Strategy Diagram of LDP2 is not to scale. Details are, however, sufficient to indicate that the overall locations for both Heads of Ayr Farm Park and Craig Tara are being 'partly developed'.

Importantly, notwithstanding this, the map shows a circle located 'offshore' to the north of the coastline that confirms that Craig Tara and Heads of Ayr are considered together as being in the 'intensive category', obviously recognising the scale of development within them, while set into the background context provided by the aforementioned 'partly developed'.

**This is therefore, in our opinion, a key consideration that the Planning Service has not considered adequately and, by implication, not given due weight/regard to the policy position here.**

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- The Planning Service/Report of Handling does not, in our opinion, pay sufficient regard to the fact that the context for reviewing this planning application, in policy terms, should be the Farm Park as a whole

There are frequent references to the Farm Park being to the east of the proposals but the Farm Park is, as described in Figs 1 and 2, with the proposed site in the south-west corner of this area.

- As a result, the proposals are assessed as if they were an isolated development within the countryside instead of a part of the Farm Park, which the Coastal Strategy accepts as being – like the adjacent Craig Tara – within the intensive development category
- The Planning Service appears to have paid no regard to the fact that a review of potential sites was undertaken and the proposed site was found to be the only suitable one that didn't fall within an operational area
- The requirement was for a House plus Isolation Unit and not simply a house. The results of the site search are shown in Fig 2.
- Although, in terms of policy, not therefore situated in typical countryside, every effort has nevertheless been made to successfully limit the visual impact and we do not therefore concur with the Planning Service's opinion on this matter
- Indeed, Supplementary Guidance: Rural Housing, in Part 1 confirms that '*Contemporary design solutions will also be acceptable, where they can demonstrate the principles of good design set out in the design guidance*'. This has underpinned the approach taken
- In Volume 2, Appendix, of our submission, we provide examples of where the Planning Service, for whatever reason, has approved developments

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in the countryside that are visually prominent and/or are not representative of the local vernacular

- The proposals are described as suburban in appearance. Neither the Development Plan nor Supplementary Planning Guidance provide an interpretation of what this is supposed to mean, or that of what constitutes the vernacular

As the evidence suggests in Volume 2, the vernacular appears to take many forms.

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**6.0 RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL'S REASONS FOR REFUSAL**

**Reason for Refusal 1**

The Report of Handling concludes that the proposals fail to comply with the requirements of the various policies/advice listed because they:

- (i) *do not form part of or complement a coherent group of buildings*
- (ii) *so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm*
- (iii) *is visually prominent*
- (iv) *uncharacteristic to the detriment of the rural landscape setting at the locality*

and that '*... no robust justification having been provided for a departure from these policies*'.

**Response**

- (i) **'do not form part of or complement a coherent group of buildings'**

**Planning Policy Status of Heads of Ayr Farm Park**

To respond to this particular criticism of the proposals, it is important to take a close look at the Development Plan situation here.

Missing from the policies referred to in Reason for Refusal 1, and this is the case for Reasons for Refusal 2 and 3 also, is any reference to Local Development Plan 2, Appendix B: Coastal Development, although it is mentioned briefly in the Report of Handling. The Coastal Strategy Diagram on page 97 of LDP2 is significant here in that, while the Diagram is not to scale, details are sufficient to indicate that the overall location for both Heads of Ayr Farm Park and Craig Tara as being 'partly developed'.



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**Importantly, however, and in addition, whichever of these two categories might apply, the map shows a circle located 'offshore' to the north of the coastline that confirms that Craig Tara and Heads of Ayr are considered together as being in the 'intensive category', clearly recognising the scale of development within both, while set into the context provided by the aforementioned partly developed and, indeed, the guidelines provided by NatureScot's Landscape Assessment.**

In terms of Development Plan status, in this regard the Report of Handling for Planning Application Ref No 23/00182/APPM puts down important markers.

In the Officer's Report of Handling for Planning Application Ref No 23/00182/APPM, Craig Tara Holiday Park is viewed as an entity within existing boundaries 'recognised as such in LDP2'. This situation is recognised by statements such as reference to the proposals as being '... an internal extension' and an 'internal/strengthening of an existing established tourism business' (designated as such within LDP2).

Craig Tara is recognised as being a 'significant leisure, recreation, tourism' facility, with the proposals in that case recognised as being internal and strengthening an existing established business.

**Heads of Ayr Farm Park is similarly a 'significant leisure, recreation, tourism' facility and the proposals are similarly intended to strengthen an existing business.**

**It is quite clear that both Craig Tara Holiday Park and Heads of Ayr Farm Park are on a par and this is recognised in the Coastal Strategy.**

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Heads of Ayr Farm Park boundaries were established via planning consent number P/92/0708 in 1992. This was for the area shown in Fig 1. The proposals are therefore located within this area of a recognised 'significant, recreation, tourism' facility.

**This point was made several times in the Planning, Design and Access Statement which formed part of the original application.**

**This, in our opinion, is a crucial material consideration in providing the detailed policy context within which the proposals ought to have been viewed by the Planning Service.** That is, the proposals should therefore be considered within this context, i.e. Heads of Ayr Farm Park as an entity and not 'simply' as a random piece of countryside.

Indeed, in our opinion, an acceptable and accurate response to a range of policy 'requirements' is dependent on this understanding but which doesn't seem to have happened in this case.

To emphasise this point, the Site Description provided very early in Part 1 of the Report of Handling states the following:

*'The application site is located **within a rural area to the south west of Ayr and west of the Heads of Ayr Nursery and the existing Heads of Ayr farm park** which lies further to the east and east of the aforementioned nursery'.*

The clear objective here, it would appear, is to paint a picture of one of comparative or, indeed, actual isolation and clearly ignores the fact that Heads of Ayr Farm Park extends to the whole of the area shown in Fig 1, with 95% of this already in Farm Park use as described in Fig 1 and the critical underlying reasons for the choice of site.

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**Factors Governing the Search for a Site within the Farm Park**

The specific circumstances pertaining to the land use position within the Farm Park is described in Fig 1. Fig 2 confirms the very limited options for the siting of a new House. Coupled with the particular requirements of the Isolation Unit means that this particular approach to the application policy, in our opinion, is inappropriate here.

In the assessment carried out to identify a site for the proposals, the extent of all areas in active use had to be taken into account. The results of these are shown in Fig 2, confirming that approximately 95% of the area within Figs 1 and 2 were occupied/in use.

In addition, as far as it was possible to do so, regard was paid to future intentions described in the Development Context Statement.

In its early years, the development of the Farm Park took advantage of the availability of a number of the original buildings of Laigh Kyleston Farm and they were effectively repurposed. The Isolation Unit is an example.

As the Development Context Statement points out, many of these buildings are not now coping well with the requirements of significant growth in the visitor numbers and the breadth of services/activities now provided over the last two decades.

Attention is being given to a major future redevelopment in order to deliver improved provision for the Farm Park administration centre, rear delivery store, restaurant and farm shop.

Early indications are that this will extend the developed area westwards, a future requirement that required to be taken into account in the search for a site for a Manager's House and Animal Isolation Unit.

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**Isolation Unit Component**

Reason for Refusal 1 is focused entirely on the residential component.

In the Report of Handling, the determining Officer has questioned the need for such a unit to be isolated, pointing to the current situation where the unit to be replaced is not in a physical sense genuinely isolated.

**There is one point that we surely must agree on? Neither the authors of this Report nor the Planning Service have any qualifications in relation to the particular requirements of a facility of this kind. The expertise lies with the Farm Park management, and their particular knowledge was material to this decision-making process.**

The determining Officer seems – understandably perhaps under the circumstances – to be missing some important facts.

The current 'unit' was given its role by Heads of Ayr management purely on the basis of availability at the time when the Park was very much in its infancy.

Since the 1990s, it will be appreciated that the requirements of animal welfare and the whole approach to the delivery of these have changed out of all recognition, including the requirement for isolation.

What degree of isolation the current 'facility' might have provided has now been further compromised by the consent given for an increase to the number of caravan pitches in the immediately adjacent Craig Tara Holiday Park.

Improvements in the requirements of animal welfare and the introduction of The Balai Directive – together with the requirements of

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the Animal and Plant Agency, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – means enhanced demand for the services and the importance of the very close proximity of the Manager's House.

The range of species and their number on site have also increased significantly.

Animal management and, in particular, the requirements of animal welfare, have therefore grown materially. Animal welfare is a 24/7 requirement. The Farm Park includes a range of exotic animals and holds the only zoo licence in Ayrshire. These animals require constant and specific care.

To perhaps state the obvious, issues regarding livestock/exotic species often do not occur during business hours but in the middle of the night, such as births, injuries and illnesses.

There are ongoing animal security issues, with exotic species in particular increasingly likely to be stolen or becoming victims of vandalism.

Indeed, there are now three managers with responsibility for various aspects of animal welfare, **ideally requiring to be housed on site.**

The new Animal Isolation Unit will provide a range of services, including:

1. new animals, those requiring a Zoo Licence, arriving at the Farm Park for the first time to be kept separate. They will be given time to rest, checked over health wise, wormed dosed vaccinated as required before joining the main Park
2. isolation of any animals suspected of carrying any disease, such as bird flu

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3. providing for animals requiring out-of-hours attention and nursed through ill health
4. providing facilities for birthing of animals that may well need assistance after hours
5. providing accommodation for orphaned animals handed in by the public that require hand rearing
6. providing space for isolation of the more exotic species before they leave the Park to go to other licensed premises to assist in the preservation of particular species

In addition, the building itself will have:

- (a) warm isolation rooms
- (b) food preparation kitchen and food storage facilities, fridges for food, etc.
- (c) animal washing/showering areas
- (d) medical treatment room
- (e) two loose boxes for larger animals
- (f) toilet and washing facilities for staff and vet

The intention therefore is to provide a new replacement Animal Isolation Unit. Proximity of the Manager's House will ensure 24/7 supervision and, as a result, the ability to respond rapidly to situations.

The requirements of the Isolation Unit mean that a new Manager's House would also need to be in a relatively isolated location but within the boundaries described in Fig 1.

For all of these reasons therefore, the site was chosen as the only one available **within the defined area of the Farm Park and which was not currently in operational use and that could also meet the needs of the Isolation Unit and that this, together with the new House, was required to physically be close.**

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Both Craig Tara Holiday Park and Heads of Ayr Farm Park are technically in the countryside but their 'difference' from 'general countryside' is recognised in the Coastal Strategy. They are both major tourism developments and this has been recognised in the Council's Coastal Strategy. They are not entirely comparable in terms of their land uses/land use pattern but as examples of 'significant leisure, recreation, tourism' facilities.

**The proposals for a House in this instance should not therefore be viewed as an incongruous outlier in an otherwise 'rural area' but should be recognised as a necessary development within a recognised Farm Park boundary and within an area recognised as alternatively 'intensively' developed or partly developed in the Council's Coastal Strategy.**

The Report of Handling persistently refers to the Farm Park being to the west of the proposals when, in fact, the Farm Park is that area shown in Figs 1 and 2. The matter of 'complementing' a coherent group of buildings is dealt with later.

- (ii) **'... so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm'**

In terms of business planning, it is not entirely clear what this is intended to mean.

Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been one of the most successful businesses in South Ayrshire for over the last 20 years or so. Innovative, robust, sustainable – all of these adjectives apply. Is the Planning Service suggesting that building a House and Animal Isolation Unit on the site proposed is somehow going to undermine the effectiveness of the business going forward?

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In terms of the company business plan, the proposals represent a major contribution to the future development of the Farm Park **and, as has already been stated, the opinion of the Park's Management in the choice of location is an important material consideration.**

The importance of the proposals' potential contribution to the further strengthening of the robustness of the overall operation of the Farm Park cannot therefore be underestimated.

And the evidence for the Planning Service's opinion?

(iii) **'is visually prominent'**

It is accepted that potential visual impact is frequently a material consideration.

The development will be within the boundary of the Farm Park and therefore to look upon the site as typically rural is to ignore the overall position as described earlier. That said, the Applicants are aware that the site is in the extreme north-west corner of the Farm Park and we are confident that sufficient information has been included in the details of the application to confirm that the visual interrelationship with the wider countryside beyond has been taken into account.

The proposed site will sit fairly tight into the north-west corner of the Farm Park, beyond the crown of high ground and on the backslope down to the abandoned railway line.

By locating the proposed development on the backslope of the raised ground and using the trees as a backdrop, the proposals will be visually screened from the approaches along the A719. Skylining will not be an issue.



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The focus on visual impact in the Report of Handling does, however, highlight an inconsistency of approach to this matter by the Planning Service.

In terms of visual impact, the Planning Service was clearly unconcerned about this when approving development in the countryside at Low Wexford, Symington, at Sundrum near Coylton or housing at Fisherton (refer to Appendix). There will likely be other examples.

The design approach is to respond to the site with architecture appropriate for the setting, rather than trying to fit traditional forms in. The Council's guidance encourages 'both traditional and innovative design which takes cognisance of the surrounding environment'. The following principles are adopted in the design proposals:

- Not located on ridge lines, hill tops, or disrupting a skyline.
- Existing landscape features such as treebelts, topography used as a setting to help reduce the prominence.
- Advantage taken of sunlight and aspect, with land-form providing natural shelter and outlook.
- Changes to the existing topography kept minimal.
- Distant and isolated from any nearby vernacular buildings.
- Large in size, discreet in appearance. Form and massing shaped to appear low-lying, simple and clean. Embedded into the slope, the proposals read as a single storey object from most of the site.

**The Report of Handling's comments on the matter of visual impact do not, in our opinion, appear to be evidence-based.** The Report, for example, suggests that '*there remains the potential for the proposals, at least partially, to be viewed from the north ...*'. Partially viewed? and by whom? Not entirely convincing!

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**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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The photographs on pages 36 to 39 confirm that, from a range of viewpoints both near and far, including those of concern to the Planning Service, the proposals would be unseen.

The assertion also is that the proposals would introduce development into the landscape where there is none at present.

The proposals will be located within the Farm Park which, in the Council's Coastal Strategy, is described as an area of intense development.

If consented, the proposals would otherwise be within 200m of other buildings within the Farm Park and with this distance to be shortened by any future redevelopment of the current group of buildings.

(iv) **'uncharacteristic to the detriment of the rural landscape setting at the locality'**

We do not agree, for the reasons set out earlier/elsewhere. The proposals must be assessed within the context of the Farm Park as a whole but, because of its precise location, every effort has been made to integrate the proposals into the requirements of the location. The matter of 'uncharacteristic' is dealt with later but suffice to say at this stage it seems odd that the Planning Service is quite prepared to approve the genuinely uncharacteristic development at Drumbain at Fisherton, less than 1.9 miles to the west.

**Overall Conclusion**

In our opinion therefore, the response by the Council requires to take account of the particular policy circumstances pertaining to both Craig Tara Holiday Park and Heads of Ayr Farm Park as confirmed in Appendix B: Coastal Development in LDP2.. Because of these circumstances, blanket application

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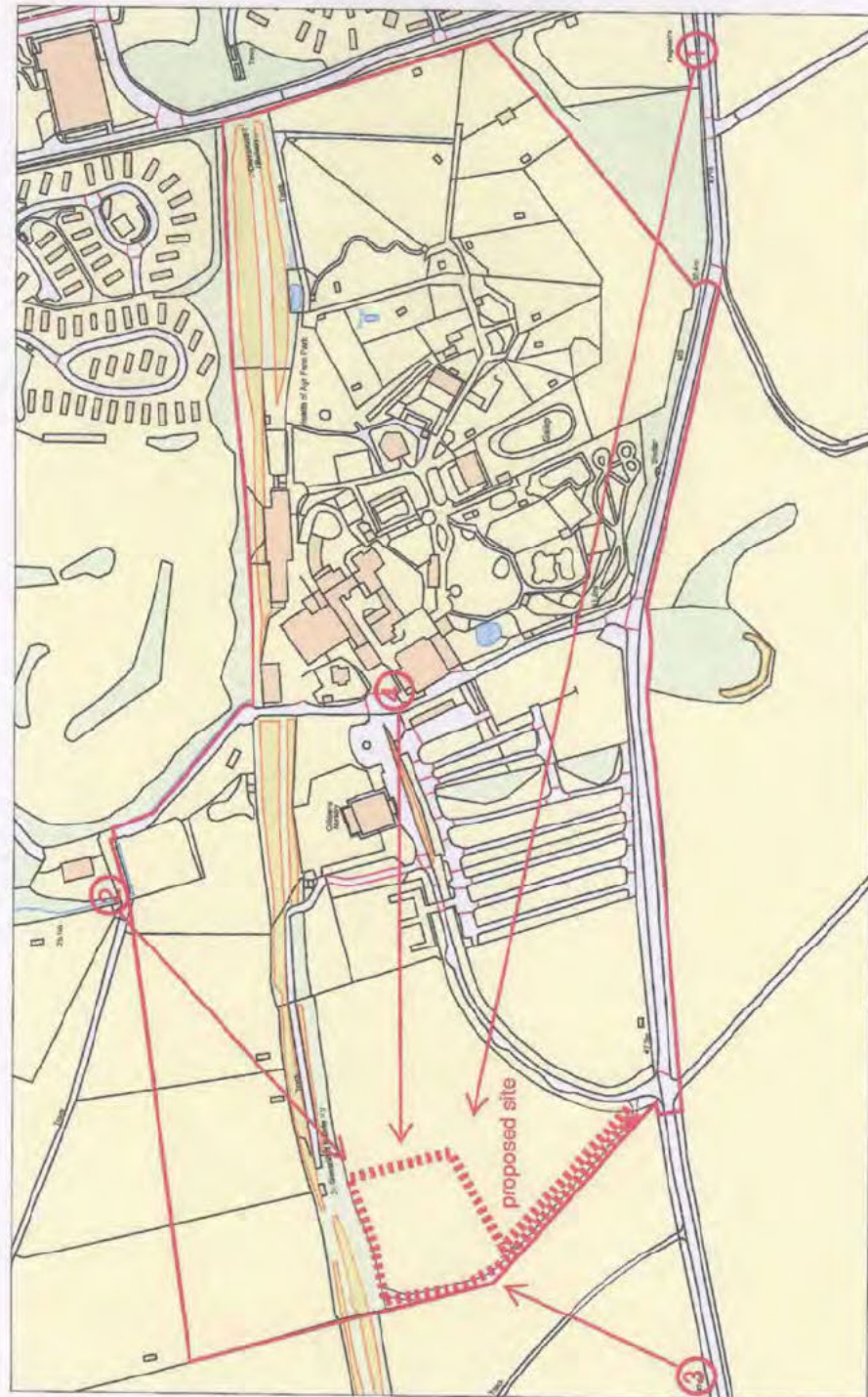
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of those policies referred to in Reason for Refusal 1, is not, in our opinion, appropriate. **In the final analysis, each case must be judged on its own individual merits and, in our opinion, the proposals are, for the reasons outlined, compatible with the requirements of the relevant policies of the Development Plan.**

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**Reason for Refusal 2**

The assertion is that the proposal is contrary to the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan due to the proposed:

- (i) *dwellinghouse and isolation facility not forming or complementing a coherent group of buildings*
- (ii) *so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm and*
- (iii) *not being visually intrusive?*

*and no justification having been provided for a departure from this policy*

**Response**

- (i) **'dwellinghouse and isolation facility not forming or complementing a coherent group of buildings'**

The overall land use situation with the defined area of the Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been described earlier. In land use terms, it is an ongoing changing situation, the most recent development being the consent granted to the Heads of Ayr Nursery extension, its associated car parking and landscaping, in mid 2023.

The evolving situation is described in the Development Context Statement which formed part of the planning application.

In relation to the choice of site for the new Manager's House and Animal Isolation Unit, the situation within the Farm Park as a whole should provide the context for the proposals. The approach by the Planning Service has been to view the proposals through the narrower prism provided by LDP policy: Rural Housing. Even there, however, the wording of policy is 'should generally', sensibly accepting that a 'one size fits all' approach is not the actual intention.

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In this case, the material considerations are the need for the Isolation Unit to be isolated, that the 24/7 management requirements mean that a Manager's House close by is an important consideration and that the land use position within the Farm Park as a whole, together with future development intentions, significantly limits the options.

**(ii) 'so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm'**

The current position in relation to the 'operational base' is under review.

The requirements of the Isolation Unit, both in locational terms and management terms, are factored into the future intentions.

If the suggestion is that the overall operational environment would be somehow weakened by the fact that the Manager's House and Isolation Unit will not physically form part of the main group of buildings, then, in our opinion, this would not be the case. The Report of Handling provides no evidence to substantiate this.

As stated previously, the advice provided by the Farm Park Management has been a key consideration in the choice of the location for the combined House and Isolation unit.

The Report of Handling also suggests that the Isolation Unit is 'capable' of generating unsustainable levels of traffic movement because of its proposed 'isolated' location and that 'numerous' trips to and from the 'farm park' (the proposed site is within the Farm Park), currently unforeseen, might result.

The Planning Service provides no evidence that this is a likely outcome. The distances within the Farm Park are relatively small and, if vehicles

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are required to transport animals, then this would be rarely, if ever, at speed. The priority of traffic management, as always, will be to keep visitors, upon which the Park depends, safe from any vehicle movement.

It is important to note that ARA found no issues with the proposals.

The Planning Service remains unconvinced that an 'isolated location' is required for the proposed Unit, citing the fact that the existing Unit is not isolated and seems to work. It is not clear where the Service's evidence for this comes from but, as stated earlier in this Statement, the existing facility is no longer fit for purpose. The Park has expanded significantly since its opening in 1993 and, in the interim, the requirements of animal welfare, a much wider range of on-site species, coupled with legislative changes means, to fulfil the licensing requirements, a much improved offer.

**In this regard, and as stated earlier, neither the authors of this document nor, I daresay, the Planning Service have any particular expertise in this regard, while the management of the Farm Park do.**

**Overall Conclusion**

It is therefore imperative to move on from what was, in effect, a 'make do and mend' provision and on a site that is large enough and situated so as to take proper account of the 'isolation' requirements.

**Reason for Refusal 3**

The Report of Handling asserts that the proposals fail to comply with the requirements of the relevant policies/advice listed because they:

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- (i) *are not sited so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise*
- (ii) *do not consolidate development within an existing cluster or the sensitive infilling of an available gap site which consolidate existing properties within a cluster, and*
- (iii) *no justification having been provided for a departure from the Rural Housing planning guidance*

- (i) **'are not sited so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farm park enterprise'**

The wording of Reason for Refusal 1 (ii) and Reason for Refusal 2 (ii) convey the same opinion. If the suggestion is that the overall operational environment would somehow be weakened by the fact that the Manager's House and Isolation unit will not physically form part of the main group of buildings, then the Report of Handling provides no evidence.

In the final analysis, the advice provided by the Farm Park Management has been a key consideration in the choice of the combined House and Animal Isolation Unit.

- (ii) **'do not consolidate development within an existing cluster or the sensitive infilling of an available gap site which consolidate existing properties within a cluster'**

Fig 2 confirms that an extensive review of possible alternative locations was undertaken within the area of the Farm Park.

This was, however, not simply the search for a site for a house but a Manager's House which would be in close proximity to an Animal Isolation Unit.

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The Isolation Unit had to be isolated and simply couldn't be placed in any 'available gap site'. Not that, at the end of the day, there were any!

- (iii) **'no justification having been provided for a departure from the Rural Housing planning guidance'**

**The Council's Rural Planning Guidance no longer has statutory force but is accepted as a material consideration.**

Rural Planning Guidance is about new houses in the countryside. That said, the proposals are for a combined new House and Animal Isolation Unit that require to be in close proximity and within the boundaries of Heads of Ayr Farm Park, a significant leisure/recreation/tourism location.

The locational requirements of the proposals are not addressed in Rural Planning Guidance and should otherwise be viewed as a development within the Farm Park where land use status is recognised in Appendix B: Coastal Development. Coastal Strategy Diagram is, along with Craig Tara, recognised as falling within the 'Intensive' Category. The 'standard' rural housing guidelines do not, in our opinion, apply here.

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## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- Local Development Plan 2, Coastal Strategy Diagram, confirms that, in terms of type of development, both Heads of Ayr and Craig Tara fall within the intensive category

This, in our opinion, provides the appropriate policy context/background for a review/assessment of the proposals.

The proposals should therefore be assessed within this policy context and the boundary of the Farm Park as defined in Figs 1 and 2.

- The Planning Service has, in the main, approached the housing element of the proposals as if they were in a 'typical' countryside location, with which we would not agree
- On 22 September 1992, consent for Change of Use of agricultural land and outline planning permission to form a 'Children's Farm' was granted. Since then, Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been one of the major economic development success stories in South Ayrshire. An important example of economic resilience, it has grown and developed when frequently overall economic circumstances have posed significant challenges
- And, as Board Members will be aware, Heads of Ayr Farm Park has become established as a 'significant leisure/ recreation/tourism facility'
- In the past 12 months, it has won the following awards:
  - Tripadvisor – Travellers' Choice, Top 10% Worldwide, 2024
  - Tripadvisor – Travellers' Choice, Top 10% Worldwide, 2023, **reflecting a level of attraction that extends beyond the local.**
- The proposals will therefore contribute to the further strengthening of the overall operation of the Farm Park. The proposed (overall) Manager's

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Dwellinghouse, along with the replacement Animal Isolation Unit, represent a significant component of future-proofing the whole enterprise

- **Members of the LRB will note that the Planning Service, on page 8 of the Report of Handling, states that ‘It is accepted that the farm park enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional residential property’**
- The issue would appear to be therefore not one of opposition to the principles of a new house but one of where this might be located
- In the opinion of the Planning Service, the proposals are viewed as being in an unsatisfactory location because they are:
  - (i) Isolated
  - (ii) visually prominent
  - (iii) uncharacteristic
  - (iv) and, as a result, do not conform to the requirements of Rural Housing Policy
- Taking these matters in turn, on the matter of isolation initially:
  - Crucial to the site-selection process is the fact that the requirement is not solely for a house but for a house intended to be the Farm Park Manager’s House, along with the replacement Animal Isolation Unit for animal welfare reasons to be located as close as possible to each other

The proposed Manager’s House and Animal Isolation Unit, for the reasons set out elsewhere in this Statement, need to be close together but also, with the latter use, requiring a level of physical isolation from other uses.

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- A location within/among or close to existing buildings was therefore not an option but this was, in any case, academic because, as Fig 2 confirms, there were none
- This practical requirement was always going to limit the number of options available within the Farm Park
- Account was clearly going to have to be taken of the current land use situation within the Farm Park as a whole. Figs 1 and 2 confirmed that 95% was otherwise in use
- The choice of location, in the event, was therefore limited to the site 'selected' in the north-west corner of the enterprise
- Turning to the matter of visual prominence, being on the edge of the Farm Park and adjacent countryside, every effort has been made to limit visual impact
  - The proposed site will therefore sit tightly into the north-west corner of the Farm Park beyond the crown of high ground and in the backslope down to the abandoned railway line, the trees along which provide a backdrop/ screen
- And, on the matter of being 'uncharacteristic', the proposals do take on the low profile characteristics of older buildings in the area, significantly more in character than the proposals, for example, for Drumbain, Fisherton – only 1.9 miles away
  - Rural Planning Guidance essentially is about housing in the countryside

Notwithstanding that, it no longer enjoys statutory status, the substantial consideration here is LDP2, Appendix B: Coastal



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Development. Coastal Strategy Diagram recognises that Heads of Ayr, with Craig Tara, fall within the 'intensive' category.

The 'standard' rural housing guidelines do not therefore, in our opinion, apply to the proposals.

The proposals are, in any case, not just for a house. They should be judged/assessed within their policy context, i.e. within the boundaries of Heads of Ayr Farm Park.

On that basis, our overall conclusion is that they are compatible with the requirements of the Development Plan and the relevant policies of both Local Development Plan 2 and National Planning Framework 4.

## **VOLUME 2**

## **APPENDIX**

**To accompany:**

**NOTICE OF REVIEW  
IN RELATION TO THE REFUSAL BY  
SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR  
THE ERECTION OF A DWELLINGHOUSE AND  
REPLACEMENT OF ANIMAL ISOLATION UNIT  
ON LAND AT HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
LAIGH KYLESTON FARM, A719 FROM  
DUNURE ROAD TO AYR ROAD, FISHERTON, AYR, KA7 4LD**

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**August 2024**

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- 2. Examples of Consents for Housing given by South Ayrshire Council in the Countryside that are in visually prominent locations, and are not representative of the local vernacular:**
  - (i) Dwelling at Sundrum in prominent location, not located within or adjacent to a cluster**
  - (ii) Proposed Drumbain, Fisherton. Radically different in terms of scale, massing, design and materials from other houses in the locality**
  - (iii) Dwellings at Low Wexford, Symington in prominent location and not, in terms of scale/massing/design, similar to other housing in the locality**

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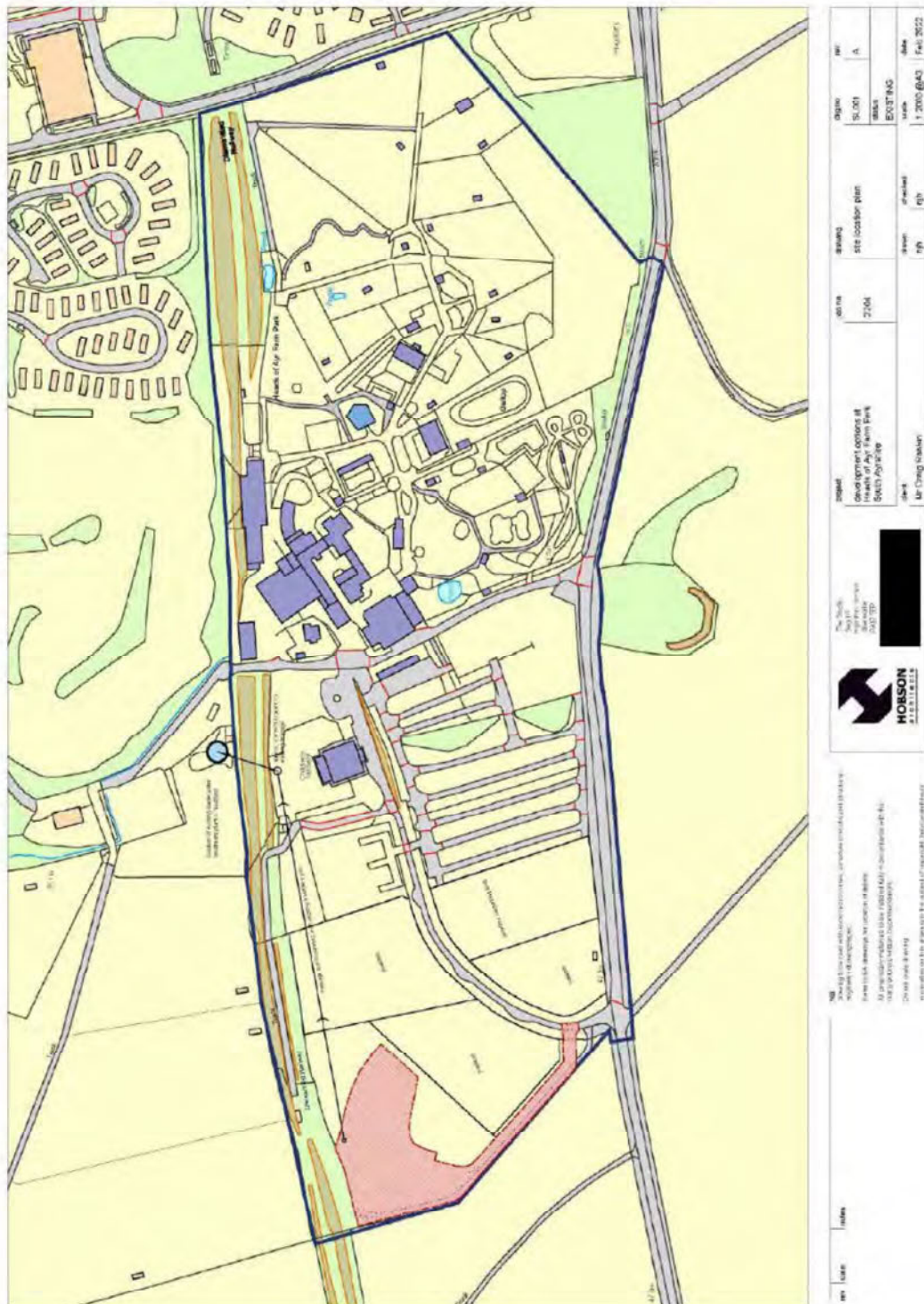
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## **1. PLANNING APPLICATION DRAWINGS**

**Volume 2. Appendix to accompany Notice of Review in Relation to the Refusal by South Ayrshire Council for Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit on Land at Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

**Planning Application Drawing No SL001: Location Plan**



**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

[illegible]



**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

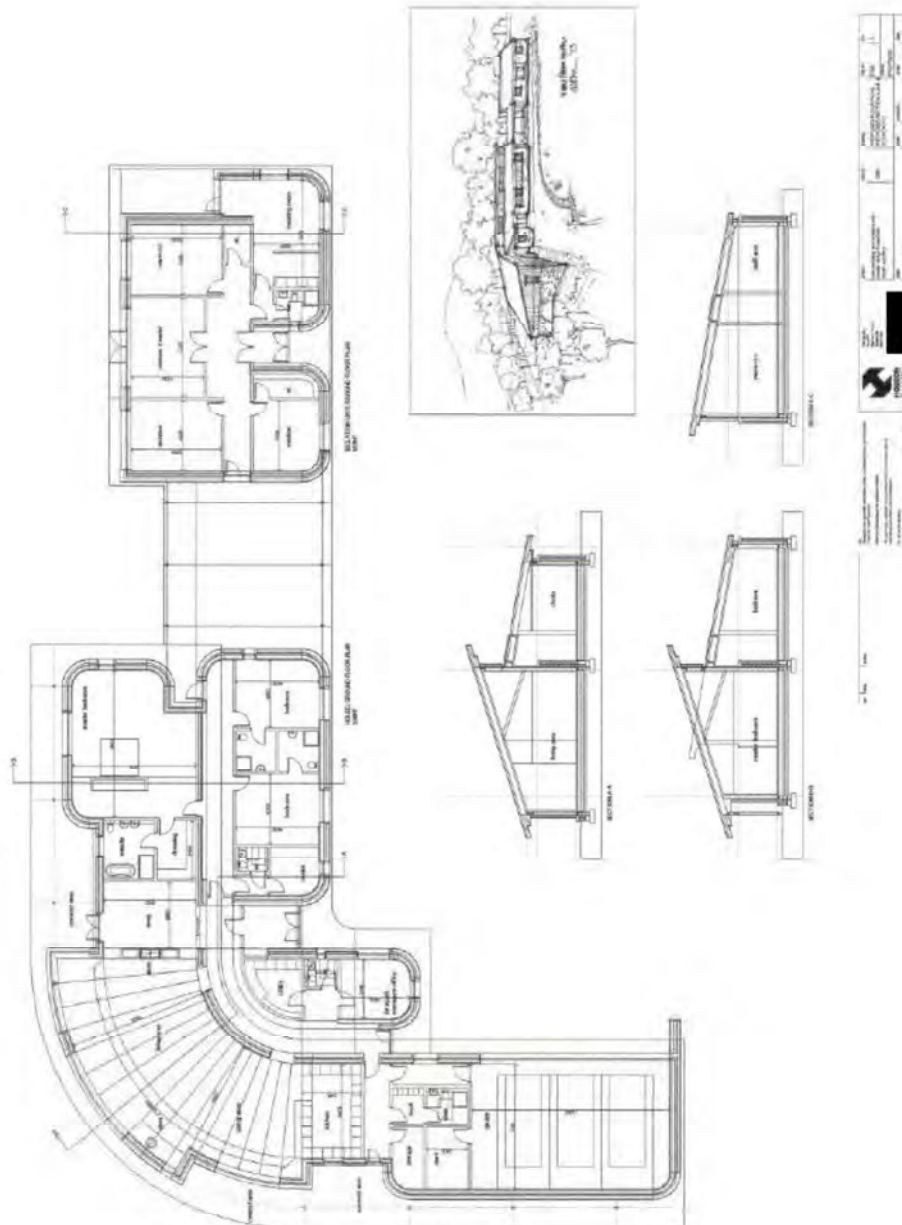
 <b>HOBSON</b> STEEL FABRIC	The Hobson Steel Fabric Group 10000 15th Street Denver, CO 80202 (303) 733-1200	PROJECT development options at 10000 15th Street South Platte		SD-70 700A	SD-902 PROP SITE PLAN	SD-10 SLOD details	10' A
		client Mr. Charles Bruckner	dates 1/81	revised 1/81	title 10000 15th	date 10.09.83	scale 1" = 100'-0"

<sup>10</sup> Although the majority of the studies cited in this review are cross-sectional, the majority of the studies cited in this review are cross-sectional.

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**Planning Application Drawing No P001: Proposed Floor Plan and Sections**

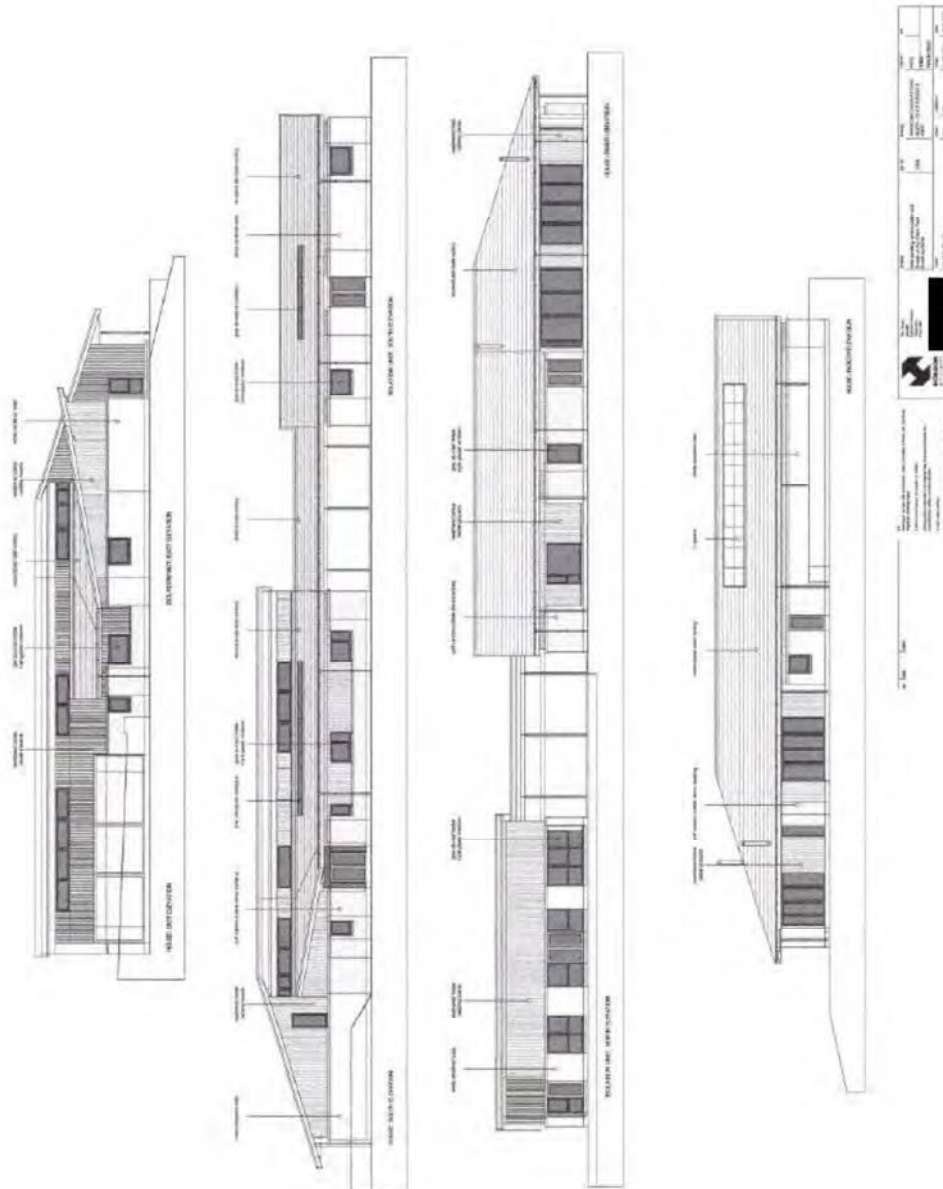




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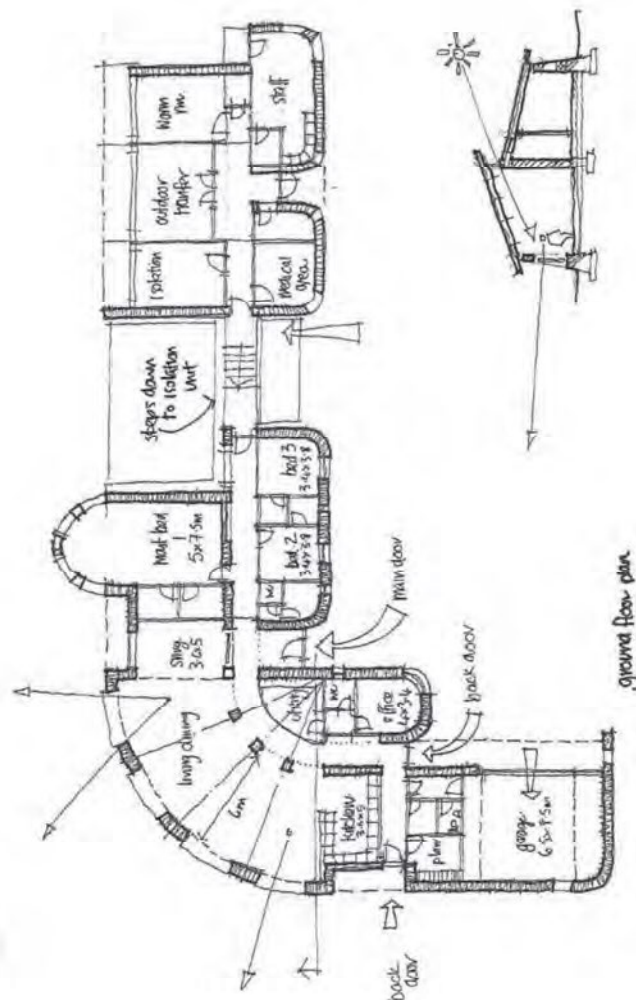
**Planning Application Drawing No P002: Proposed Elevations**



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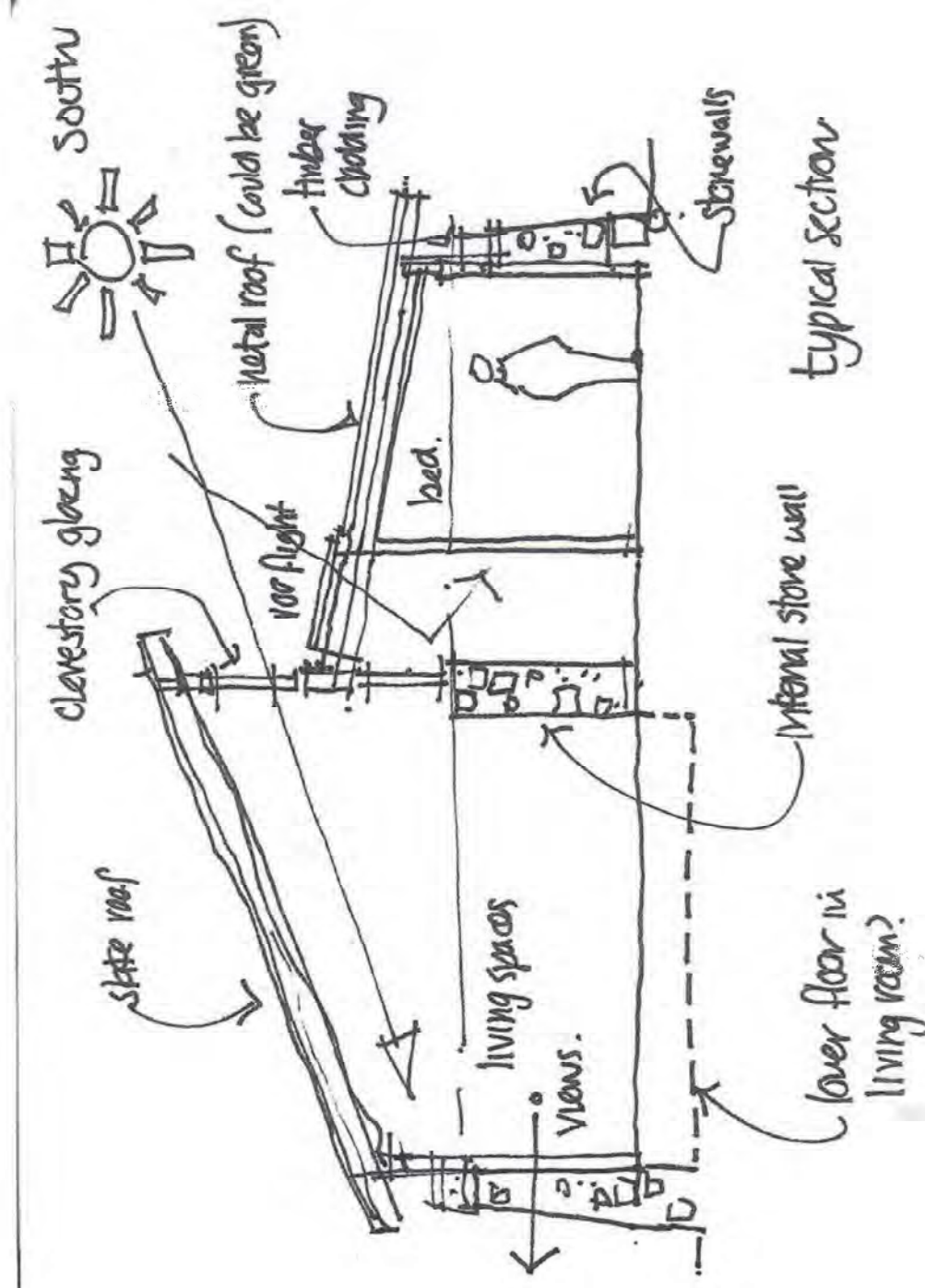
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**Early Concept Sketches**



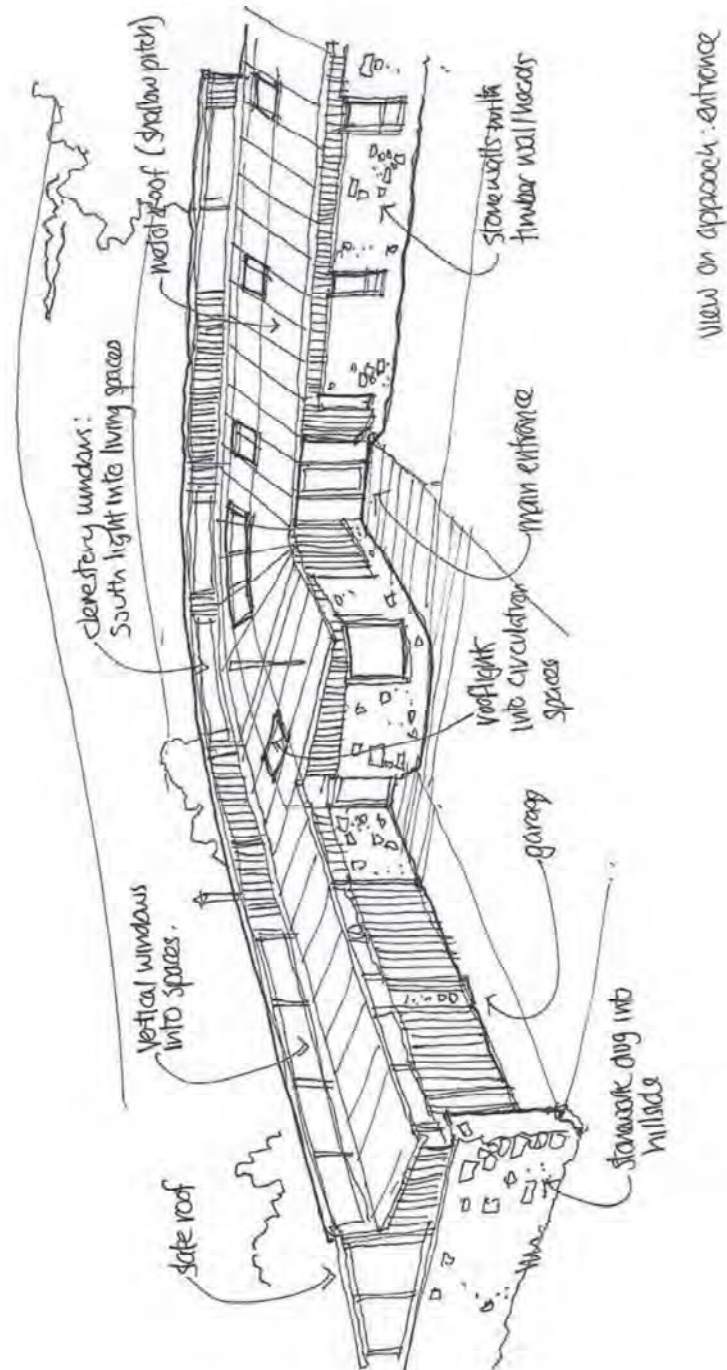
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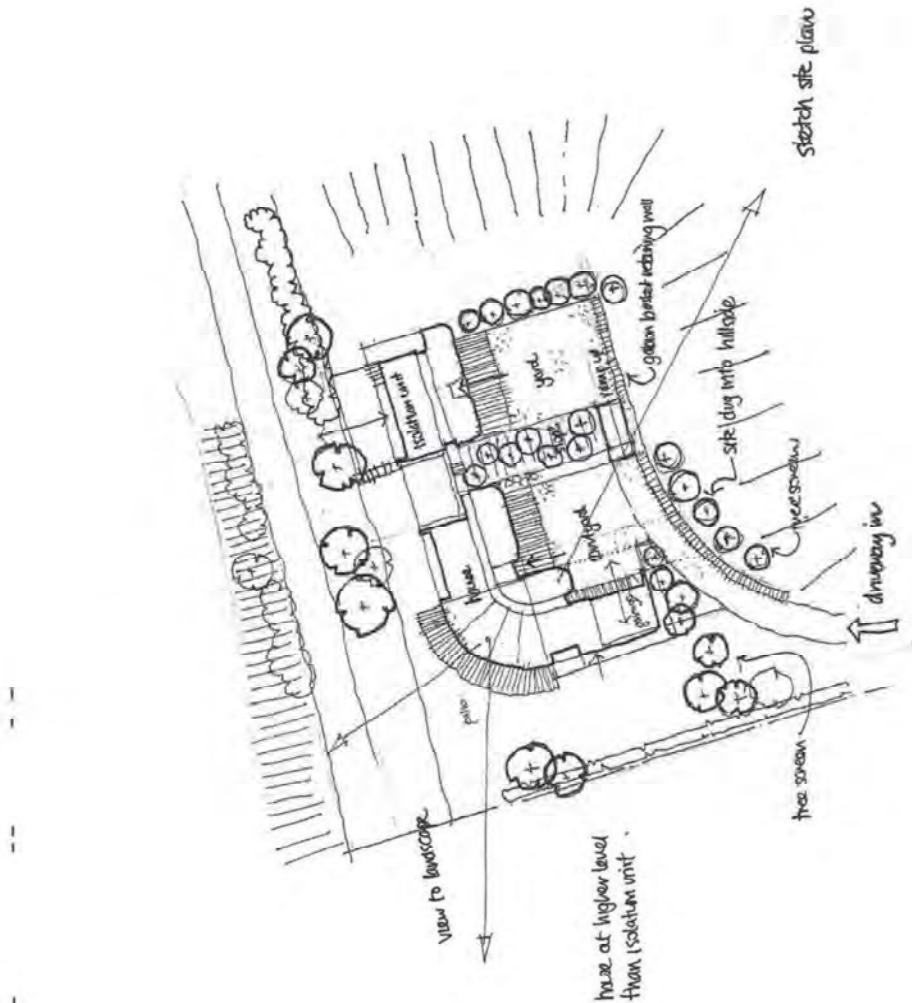
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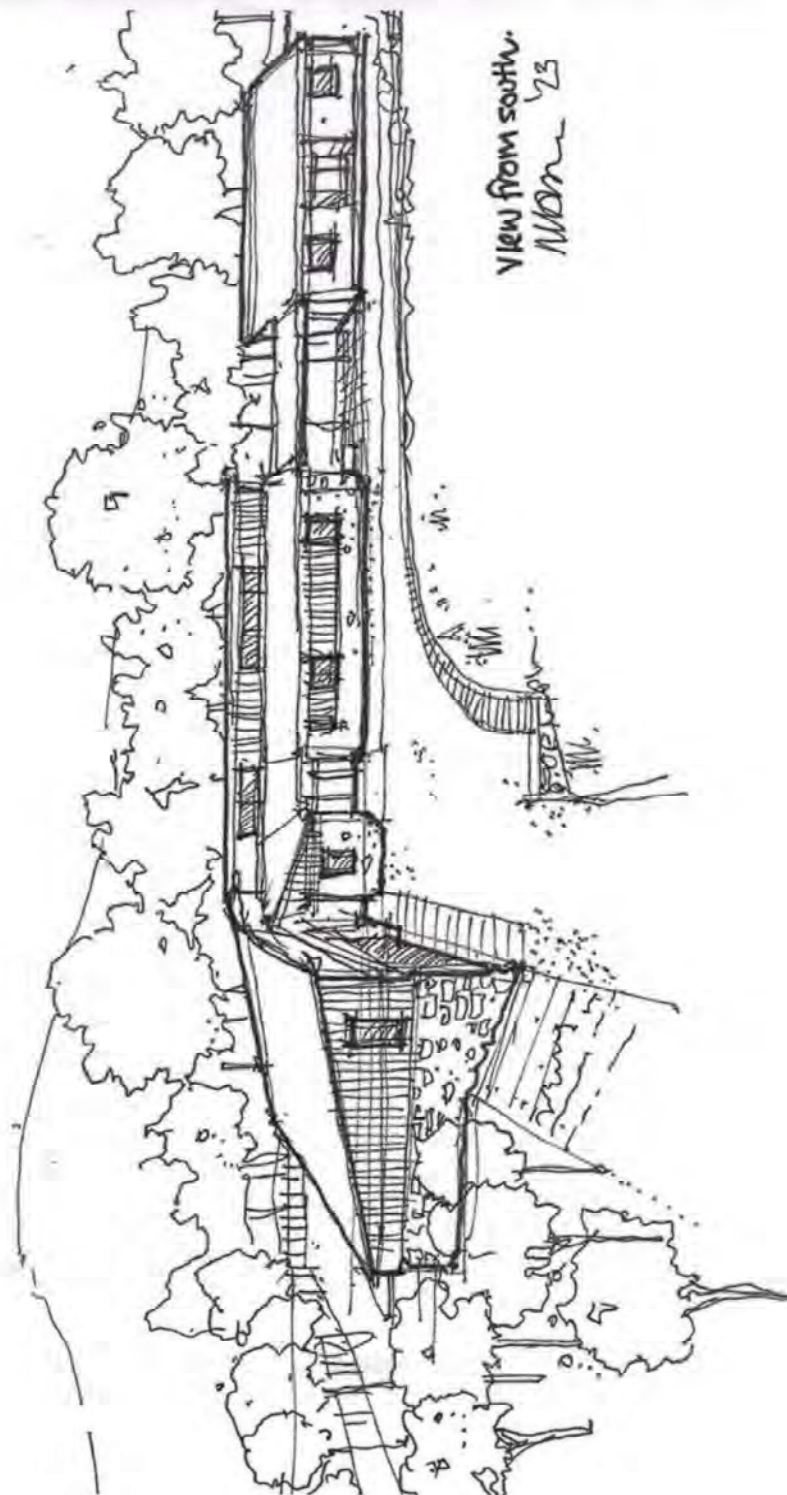




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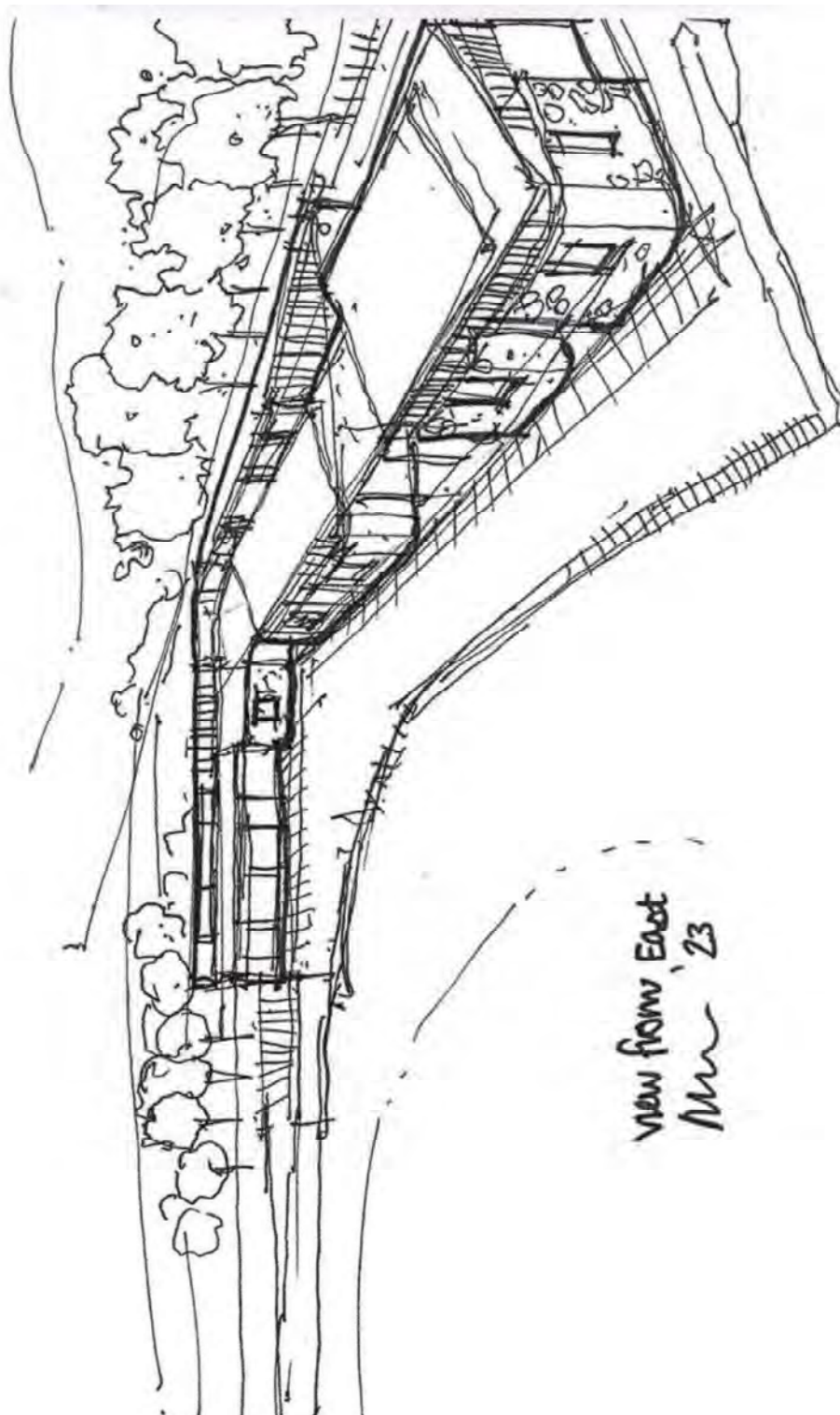
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## **2. EXAMPLES OF CONSENTS**

**Examples of Consents for Housing given by South Ayrshire Council in the Countryside that are in visually prominent locations, and are not representative of the local vernacular:**

- (i) Dwelling at Sundrum in prominent location, not located within or adjacent to a cluster**
- (ii) Proposed Drumbain, Fisherton. Radically different in terms of scale, massing, design and materials from other houses in the locality**
- (iii) Dwellings at Low Wexford, Symington in prominent location and not, in terms of scale/massing/design, similar to other housing in the locality**



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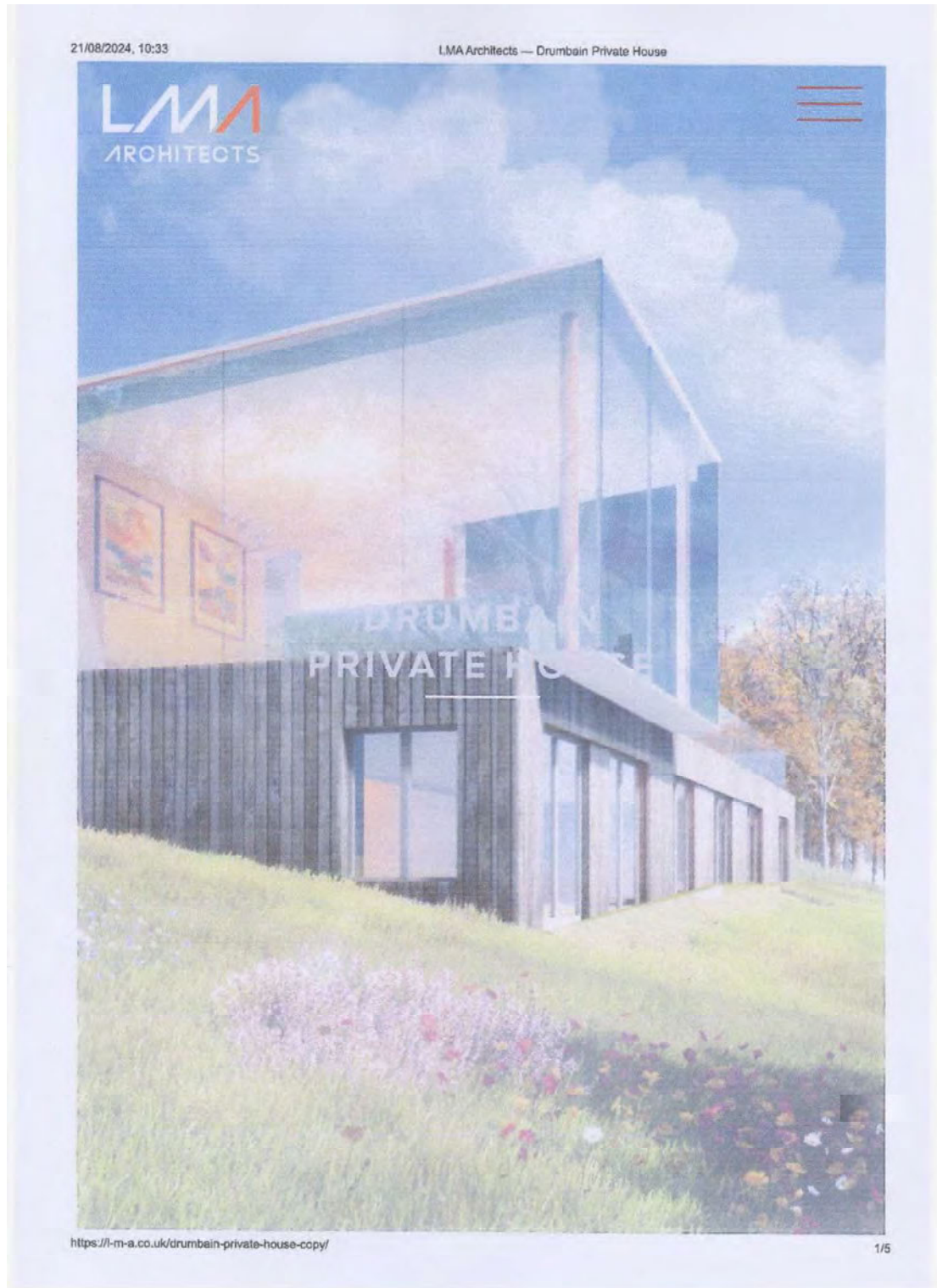
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**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**





County Buildings Wellington Square Ayr KA7 1DR Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100634972-002

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application.

## Type of Application

What is this application for? Please select one of the following: \*

- ☐ Application for planning permission (including changes of use and surface mineral working).
- ☐ Application for planning permission in principle.
- ☐ Further application, (including renewal of planning permission, modification, variation or removal of a planning condition etc)
- ☐ Application for Approval of Matters specified in conditions.

## Description of Proposal

Please describe the proposal including any change of use: \* (Max 500 characters)

Erection of managers house and replacement of animal isolation unit on land adjacent Heads of Ayr Farm Park

Is this a temporary permission? \* ☐ Yes ☒ No

If a change of use is to be included in the proposal has it already taken place?  
(Answer 'No' if there is no change of use.) \* ☐ Yes ☒ No

Has the work already been started and/or completed? \*

☒ No ☐ Yes – Started ☐ Yes - Completed

## Applicant or Agent Details

Are you an applicant or an agent? \* (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

☐ Applicant ☒ Agent



## Agent Details

Please enter Agent details

Company/Organisation:	Hobson Architects		
Ref. Number:		You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
First Name: *	nicholas john	Building Name:	seacliff
Last Name: *	hobson	Building Number:	
Telephone Number: *		Address 1 (Street): *	eglinton terrace
Extension Number:		Address 2:	
Mobile Number:		Town/City: *	skelmorlie
Fax Number:		Country: *	Scotland
		Postcode: *	PA17 5EP
Email Address: *			

Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? \*

☒ Individual ☐ Organisation/Corporate entity

## Applicant Details

Please enter Applicant details

Title:	Mr	You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
Other Title:		Building Name:	Laigh Kyleston Farm
First Name: *	Craig	Building Number:	
Last Name: *	Rankin	Address 1 (Street): *	Heads of Ayr Farm Park
Company/Organisation	Heads of Ayr Farm Park (Scotland)	Address 2:	Dunure Road
Telephone Number: *		Town/City: *	Alloway
Extension Number:		Country: *	Scotland
Mobile Number:		Postcode: *	KA7 4LD
Fax Number:			
Email Address: *			

## Site Address Details

Planning Authority:

South Ayrshire Council

Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available):

Address 1:

LAIGH KYLESTON FARM

Address 2:

Address 3:

Address 4:

Address 5:

Town/City/Settlement:

AYR

Post Code:

KA7 4LD

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

Northing

618119

Easting

229778

## Pre-Application Discussion

Have you discussed your proposal with the planning authority? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

## Pre-Application Discussion Details Cont.

In what format was the feedback given? \*

☐ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Letter ☒ Email

Please provide a description of the feedback you were given and the name of the officer who provided this feedback. If a processing agreement [note 1] is currently in place or if you are currently discussing a processing agreement with the planning authority, please provide details of this. (This will help the authority to deal with this application more efficiently.) \* (max 500 characters)

This is a re-submission of previous planning application 23/00527/APP which was withdrawn (21st September 2023) following feedback from the Planning Officer in email correspondence dated 14th September 2023

Title:

Ms

Other title:

First Name:

Fiona

Last Name:

Sharp

Correspondence Reference  
Number:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

14/09/2023

Note 1. A Processing agreement involves setting out the key stages involved in determining a planning application, identifying what information is required and from whom and setting timescales for the delivery of various stages of the process.

## Site Area

Please state the site area:

6100.00

Please state the measurement type used:

☐ Hectares (ha) ☒ Square Metres (sq.m)

## Existing Use

Please describe the current or most recent use: \* (Max 500 characters)

Animal paddock linked to Heads of Ayr Farm Park

## Access and Parking

Are you proposing a new altered vehicle access to or from a public road? \*

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes please describe and show on your drawings the position of any existing. Altered or new access points, highlighting the changes you propose to make. You should also show existing footpaths and note if there will be any impact on these.

Are you proposing any change to public paths, public rights of way or affecting any public right of access? \*

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes please show on your drawings the position of any affected areas highlighting the changes you propose to make, including arrangements for continuing or alternative public access.

How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) currently exist on the application Site?

0

How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) do you propose on the site (i.e. the Total of existing and any new spaces or a reduced number of spaces)? \*

4

Please show on your drawings the position of existing and proposed parking spaces and identify if these are for the use of particular types of vehicles (e.g. parking for disabled people, coaches, HGV vehicles, cycles spaces).

## Water Supply and Drainage Arrangements

Will your proposal require new or altered water supply or drainage arrangements? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you proposing to connect to the public drainage network (eg. to an existing sewer)? \*

☐ Yes – connecting to public drainage network

☒ No – proposing to make private drainage arrangements

☐ Not Applicable – only arrangements for water supply required

As you have indicated that you are proposing to make private drainage arrangements, please provide further details.

What private arrangements are you proposing? \*

☐ New/Altered septic tank.

☒ Treatment/Additional treatment (relates to package sewage treatment plants, or passive sewage treatment such as a reed bed).

☐ Other private drainage arrangement (such as chemical toilets or composting toilets).

Please explain your private drainage arrangements briefly here and show more details on your plans and supporting information: \*

new development will connect to the existing waste treatment plant and reed bed which currently serves te rest of the Heads of Ayr Farm Park development

Do your proposals make provision for sustainable drainage of surface water?? \*  
(e.g. SUDS arrangements) \*

T Yes ≤ No

Note:-

Please include details of SUDS arrangements on your plans

Selecting 'No' to the above question means that you could be in breach of Environmental legislation.

Are you proposing to connect to the public water supply network? \*

T Yes

≤ No, using a private water supply

≤ No connection required

If No, using a private water supply, please show on plans the supply and all works needed to provide it (on or off site).

## Assessment of Flood Risk

Is the site within an area of known risk of flooding? \*

≤ Yes T No ≤ Don't Know

If the site is within an area of known risk of flooding you may need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment before your application can be determined. You may wish to contact your Planning Authority or SEPA for advice on what information may be required.

Do you think your proposal may increase the flood risk elsewhere? \*

≤ Yes T No ≤ Don't Know

## Trees

Are there any trees on or adjacent to the application site? \*

T Yes ≤ No

If Yes, please mark on your drawings any trees, known protected trees and their canopy spread close to the proposal site and indicate if any are to be cut back or felled.

## Waste Storage and Collection

Do the plans incorporate areas to store and aid the collection of waste (including recycling)? \*

T Yes ≤ No

If Yes or No, please provide further details: \* (Max 500 characters)

Area of waste collection indicated at junction of existing service road serving Heads of Ayr Farm Park and Nursery

## Residential Units Including Conversion

Does your proposal include new or additional houses and/or flats? \*

T Yes ≤ No

How many units do you propose in total? *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	Please provide full details of the number and types of units on the plans. Additional information may be provided in a supporting statement.
<h2 style="margin: 0;">All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed New Floorspace</h2>		
Does your proposal alter or create non-residential floorspace? * <div style="float: right;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No         </div>		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed New Floorspace Details</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">For planning permission in principle applications, if you are unaware of the exact proposed floorspace dimensions please provide an estimate where necessary and provide a fuller explanation in the 'Don't Know' text box below.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Please state the use type and proposed floorspace (or number of rooms if you are proposing a hotel or residential institution): *</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px; min-height: 20px;">Not in a Use Class</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Gross (proposed) floorspace (In square meters, sq.m) or number of new (additional) Rooms (If class 7, 8 or 8a): *</p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">If Class 1, please give details of internal floorspace:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Net trading spaces:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Non-trading space:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Total:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> </div> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">163</div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">If Class 'Not in a use class' or 'Don't know' is selected, please give more details: (Max 500 characters)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 50px; margin-top: 5px;">animal isolation unit</div> </div>		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Schedule 3 Development</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Does the proposal involve a form of development listed in Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013) *         <div style="float: right;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know         </div> </p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">If yes, your proposal will additionally have to be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area of the development. Your planning authority will do this on your behalf but will charge you a fee. Please check the planning authority's website for advice on the additional fee and add this to your planning fee.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">If you are unsure whether your proposal involves a form of development listed in Schedule 3, please check the Help Text and Guidance notes before contacting your planning authority.</p>		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Planning Service Employee/Elected Member Interest</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Is the applicant, or the applicant's spouse/partner, either a member of staff within the planning service or an elected member of the planning authority? *         <div style="float: right;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No         </div> </p>		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Certificates and Notices</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">CERTIFICATE AND NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 15 – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATION 2013</p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">One Certificate must be completed and submitted along with the application form. This is most usually Certificate A, Form 1, Certificate B, Certificate C or Certificate E.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Are you/the applicant the sole owner of ALL the land? *</p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Is any of the land part of an agricultural holding? *</p> <p style="font-size: 0.85em;">Do you have any agricultural tenants? *</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No         </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No         </div> <div> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No         </div> </div> </div>		

## Certificate Required

The following Land Ownership Certificate is required to complete this section of the proposal:

Certificate E

## Land Ownership Certificate

Certificate and Notice under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Certificate E

I hereby certify that –

(1) – No person other than myself/the applicant was the owner of any part of the land to which the application relates at the beginning of the period 21 days ending with the date of the application.

(2) - The land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding and there are no agricultural tenants

Or

(1) – No person other than myself/the applicant was the owner of any part of the land to which the application relates at the beginning of the period 21 days ending with the date of the application.

(2) - The land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding and there are agricultural tenants.

Name:

Address:

Date of Service of Notice: \*

(4) – I have/The applicant has taken reasonable steps, as listed below, to ascertain the names and addresses of the other owners or agricultural tenants and \*have/has been unable to do so –

Signed:                   nicholas john hobson

On behalf of:           Mr Craig Rankin

Date:                     21/02/2024

☐ Please tick here to certify this Certificate. \*

## Checklist – Application for Planning Permission

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Please take a few moments to complete the following checklist in order to ensure that you have provided all the necessary information in support of your application. Failure to submit sufficient information with your application may result in your application being deemed invalid. The planning authority will not start processing your application until it is valid.

a) If this is a further application where there is a variation of conditions attached to a previous consent, have you provided a statement to that effect? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

b) If this is an application for planning permission or planning permission in principle where there is a crown interest in the land, have you provided a statement to that effect? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

c) If this is an application for planning permission, planning permission in principle or a further application and the application is for development belonging to the categories of national or major development (other than one under Section 42 of the planning Act), have you provided a Pre-Application Consultation Report? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

d) If this is an application for planning permission and the application relates to development belonging to the categories of national or major developments and you do not benefit from exemption under Regulation 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, have you provided a Design and Access Statement? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

e) If this is an application for planning permission and relates to development belonging to the category of local developments (subject to regulation 13. (2) and (3) of the Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013) have you provided a Design Statement? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

f) If your application relates to installation of an antenna to be employed in an electronic communication network, have you provided an ICNIRP Declaration? \*

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable to this application

g) If this is an application for planning permission, planning permission in principle, an application for approval of matters specified in conditions or an application for mineral development, have you provided any other plans or drawings as necessary:

☐ Site Layout Plan or Block plan.

☐ Elevations.

☐ Floor plans.

☐ Cross sections.

☐ Roof plan.

☐ Master Plan/Framework Plan.

☐ Landscape plan.

☐ Photographs and/or photomontages.

☐ Other.

If Other, please specify: \* (Max 500 characters)

planning design and access statement development context statement ecology report

Provide copies of the following documents if applicable:

A copy of an Environmental Statement. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
A Design Statement or Design and Access Statement. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A		
A Flood Risk Assessment. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
A Drainage Impact Assessment (including proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems). *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Drainage/SUDS layout. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A		
A Transport Assessment or Travel Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Contaminated Land Assessment. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Habitat Survey. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
A Processing Agreement. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	T	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Other Statements (please specify). (Max 500 characters)

ecology report

## Declare – For Application to Planning Authority

I, the applicant/agent certify that this is an application to the planning authority as described in this form. The accompanying Plans/drawings and additional information are provided as a part of this application.

Declaration Name: Mr nicholas john hobson

Declaration Date: 21/02/2024



**PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT (PDAS)  
IN SUPPORT OF PLANNING APPLICATION FOR  
THE ERECTION OF A MANAGER'S HOUSE AND  
REPLACEMENT ANIMAL ISOLATION UNIT  
ON LAND WITHIN HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
DUNURE ROAD, AYR, KA7 4LD**

**REPORT INCORPORATING DESIGN STATEMENT  
PREPARED ON BEHALF OF  
CRAIG AND EDNA RANKIN,  
HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
DUNURE ROAD, AYR, KA7 4LD**

**Report Prepared by:**

**NICK HOBSON  
BA(Hons) Dip Arch RIBA RIAS  
HOBSON ARCHITECTS  
SEACLIFF  
EGLINTON TERRACE  
SKELMORLIE  
PA17 5EP**

**MICHAEL S EVANS  
BA (Econ); Dip TP, MRTPI, MCIM  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
meicplan.associates  
"TY-NEWYDD"  
11 MURCHIE DRIVE  
KINGS MEADOW  
PRESTWICK  
KA9 2ND**



**February 2024**

**Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) in Support of Planning Application for the Erection of a Manager's House and Replacement Animal Isolation Unit on Land within Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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- The implications of the Characteristics of the Site, etc. for the location of the proposals and the design outcome within the broader and immediately surrounding landscape, including photographic evidence, maps and diagrams
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**(i) SUMMARY / CONCLUSIONS**

**(a) Economic Significance**

- The South Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2023 confirms the need for improving economic growth, with South Ayrshire consistently performing at levels below the Scottish Average

The Strategy also emphasises the need for further diversification and the need to foster an entrepreneurial culture.

Heads of Ayr Farm Park has delivered in respect of both and, provided that the realisation of further opportunities will be encouraged and supported, will continue to do so. The Farm Park opened in May 1993 and has been subject to an ongoing diversification process since then.

- The Strategy also expressed concerns about the resilience of the South Ayrshire economy. The Farm Park is an important example of resilience, having grown and developed when frequently overall economic circumstances have posed significant challenges
- **The importance of the proposals' contribution to the further strengthening of the robustness of the overall operation of the Farm Park therefore cannot be underestimated**
- The Farm Park is a prime example of an ongoing investment by a locally owned and locally rooted company with a commitment to the local area
- The South Ayrshire Strategic Economic Plan: Vision 2030, in its Introduction, details the challenges ahead for the economy. The

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Plan aims to *'create capacity to respond to economic shocks'*. Heads of Ayr Farm Park, with its widely recognised innovatory approach, has confirmed its agility to cope with change and robustly respond to *'economic shocks'* which have, in reality, been virtually ongoing for up to fifteen years

- The Ayrshire Growth Deal emphasises the need to enhance *'the existing tourism offer'* to make Ayrshire a highly desirable destination
- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 confirms that 13% of those in employment have jobs in tourism and states that: *'We will look favourably on proposals which will provide or improve tourist and leisure infrastructure and we will support keeping and improving existing significant leisure, recreation and tourist facilities'*
- Heads of Ayr Farm Park, with its 200,000 visitors per annum, providing 37 full-time and 80 part-time jobs, is quite clearly a significant leisure/tourist facility, with an ongoing improvement programme of which the proposals form an important part

**As a consequence of the significant and continuing increase in both the number and range of exotic species, animal welfare requirements have become more complex through need for care on a 24/7 basis and has otherwise intensified.**

- Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been one of the major economic development success stories in South Ayrshire. The winner of a range of awards, the most recent of these being the NFAN's Large Farm Attraction of the Year award 2022. Specifically recognised by the Scottish Parliament and Westminster as an asset to the community and local tourism, the facility cannot 'stand still' and

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further investment of the kind mentioned in this report is required, albeit within sustainable limits

- With its origins in a traditional farm in the countryside, the Farm Park represents one of the most successful examples of rural diversification in Ayrshire

The overall context for these proposals is set out in the Heads of Ayr Farm Park Development Context Statement, January 2023, which forms part of this application.

**(b) Emerging Housing Requirement**

- While the new House would provide accommodation for the overall manager, who currently would be the applicant and who is one of the company directors, three other directors are employed full-time in the various activities located within the Farm Park. Currently, the situation is therefore that all three are required to travel to work. Ideally, all three would be housed within the Farm Park. The construction of the Manager's House and the Isolation Unit would allow occupation by one of them of the vacated Farmhouse.

**(c) The Proposals**

- Currently, the existing 'Manager's House', i.e. Laigh Kyleston Farmhouse, and current Animal Isolation Unit are not adjacent.
- It is generally agreed that inevitably the eventual outcome regarding any proposal is influenced/underpinned by a range of considerations.

The principal ones in this case are:-

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- (i) the characteristics of the site, its location and setting within the broader and immediately surrounding landscape/ countryside
  - (ii) the characteristics of the pattern of development in this part of the countryside
  - (iii) the requirements of the Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance, and
  - (iv) where applicable, relevant Material (planning) Considerations
- On 22 September 1992, consent for 'Change of use of agricultural land and outline planning permission to form Children's Farm' was granted, Planning Application Ref No P/92/0708. This was for the area shown in Fig 1
- In terms of planning policy, the Farm Park, along with Craig Tara, are in LDP2 Appendix B: Coastal Development – Intensively Developed. While LDP2 policy elsewhere confirms that encouragement will be given to improving existing significant tourist facilities, Appendix B refers to the likely sensitive nature of the landscape surrounding 'Intensively Developed'
- In this regard, most of the Farm Park buildings were traditional farm buildings pertaining to Laigh Kyleston and all have been relatively low. The only relatively significant new development in the interim has been the Nursery/Nursery Extension and, in terms of its scale, massing, etc., guidance was provided by the farm/former farm buildings to the east
- The current proposals similarly, therefore, are being guided substantially by the predominance of low-lying structures

Like any development, the proposals have been influenced to a degree by the topography of the site. The aim has been to

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minimise the visual impact from the main road and approaches both west and east. The low in the landscape single-storey approach to the development within the Farm Park elsewhere has been maintained.

- Although not entirely traditional in concept, the Council's Rural Housing policy allows for more contemporary solutions as long as the principles of good design have been adhered to, as has been the case, in our opinion, here

The overall aesthetic is therefore single storey, low-pitched roofs, broken roofscape to break up massing and a rural palette of materials, but expressed in a more modern manner, for example timber cladding with feature stone panels, slate roofing but with some feature grey zinc roofing to some areas and larger window openings to living areas to respond to the orientation and views.

**(d) Choice of Location**

- Scrutiny of the area within the boundary shown in Fig 2 confirmed the absence of suitable alternative locations that could satisfactorily accommodate the dual requirements of the House and Animal Isolation Unit

Two of the underlying locational requirements have been that, because of the 24/7 operational needs of the Isolation Unit, a new building would need to be close to the Manager's House.

At the same time, the Isolation Unit required to be – as the name suggests – isolated.

Fig 2 confirms that the vast bulk of the defined area of the Farm Park shown in Fig 1 is in operational use, the exception being a



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relatively small area within the extreme north-west corner. Satisfying, as it does, the precise locational requirements, it was concluded that this is where the proposals would be located.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Background**

This Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) has been commissioned by Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd per Craig and Edna Rankin. At the time of writing, it was understood that the application site was in their ownership. Boundaries are confirmed by Planning Application Drawing No SL001, a copy of which can be found in the Appendix.

### **Project Team**

This Supporting Statement was prepared by:

- **Michael S Evans, Planning Consultant, meicplan.associates**  
"Ty-Newydd", 11 Murchie Drive, Kings Meadow, Prestwick, KA9 2ND

and

- **Nick Hobson, Hobson Architects, Seacliff, Eglinton Terrace,**  
Skelmorlie, PA17 5EP,

### **Clients**

Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd per Craig and Edna Rankin, Laigh Kyleston, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA6 4LD.

### **The Site**

The proposed application site is shown in Planning Application Drawing No SL001 and extends to 6,000m<sup>2</sup>. This forms part of the overall area of Heads of Ayr Farm Park, which is shown in Fig 1 and which extends to 20.5 Ha.

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**Fig 1: Heads of Ayr Farm Park Boundary**



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**The Proposals**

The planning application includes two important elements – a new House and a replacement Animal Isolation Unit, the purpose of which is to provide a range of services, including:

1. for new animals, those requiring a Zoo Licence, arriving at the Farm Park for the first time to be kept separate. They will be given time to rest, checked over health wise, wormed, dosed and vaccinated as required before joining the main park
2. isolation of any animals suspected of carrying any disease, such as bird flu
3. providing for animals requiring out-of-hours attention and nursed through ill health
4. providing facilities for birthing of animals that may well need assistance after hours
5. providing accommodation for orphaned animals handed in by the public that require hand rearing
6. providing space for isolation of the more exotic species before they leave the park to go to other licensed premises to assist in the preservation of particular species

In addition, the building itself will have:

- (a) warm isolation rooms
- (b) food preparation kitchen and food storage facilities, fridges for food, etc.
- (c) animal washing/showering areas
- (d) medical treatment room
- (e) two loose boxes for larger animals
- (f) toilet and washing facilities for staff and vet

Currently, the building used for the purposes described above is not purpose-built and essentially no longer fit for purpose. In addition, its location – close

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to other users, including the neighbouring Craig Tara Holiday Park – means that levels of required 'isolation' are not achieved.

**The Site Selection Process**

**The existing and emerging development patterns within the Farm Park, as shown in Fig 2, confirm that the only opportunities that could meet the requirements of residential amenity and the requirements of the Animal Isolation Unit together were in the west and, indeed, the south-west corner.**

In truth therefore, the actual options were extremely limited, including the fact that proximity of the Animal Isolation Unit to the Manager's House was a key consideration.

Indeed, it was early concluded that the proposals could not sit comfortably within the operational area of the Farm Park if a site was to fulfil the combined requirements of the Animal Isolation Unit, together with the residential amenity requirements of the proposed House.

The existing location of the Isolation Unit was quickly dismissed as an option because of this.

The only possible realistic search area therefore was in the west of the Park, but while this part of the Farm Park is made up substantially of paddocks, these are used to house various species and the intention is to further intensify this kind of use in the future.

The proposed site emerged as the 'least used' option within this area.

The Planning Service had previously expressed its opposition to development north of the abandoned railway line.



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**Fig 2: Search Area for Site of the Proposals**



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The details of the site follow in Part 2.0 and the response to these in Part 5.0, Proposals.

**Scope and Purpose of this PDAS (Project Brief)**

This Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) has been prepared on behalf of Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd per Craig and Edna Rankin to form part of an application (full) for planning permission for the proposals described above and relates to the area of ground shown in Planning Application Drawing No SL001.

**It should be read in conjunction with the Heads of Ayr Farm Park Development Context Statement, January 2023, which also forms part of this application.**

**The purpose of this Statement is therefore to confirm that the proposals are:**

- (i) **consistent with the requirements of the relevant policies of the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan, the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance and**
- (ii) **consistent with National Planning Framework 4 [NPF4] and**
- (iii) **have taken into account outcomes from relevant material considerations**

This PDAS has therefore been prepared for the sole and exclusive use of the Client and has been prepared in response to their particular requirements. This Statement may therefore not be relied upon by another party.

**Regulatory Requirements in Relation to the Requirement for a Design Statement or Design and Access Statement**

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Planning Circular 5 2009, Hierarchy of Developments, Scottish Government Development Department, July 2009 confirms that the proposals are a 'Local Development', further confirmed by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, Reg 2(2).

Planning Circular 3/2013 provided guidelines as to when (Regulation 13) an application should include a Design Statement or, when appropriate, a Design and Access Statement (paras 3.18 and 3.19).

Clearly, the proposals do not come within the requirements of paras 3.18 or 3.19.

Notwithstanding the above, para 3.15 states that '*All applicants, together with developers, architects, designers and agents, should consider design as an integral part of the development process.*'

Indeed, Planning Advice Note 68: Design Statements confirms that '*a Design Statement could potentially be submitted with any planning application, the advice being that 'where a formal Design Statement is not necessary, applicants should still have a clear and logical design philosophy which could be explained, if required.'*

This approach, in our opinion, contributes to delivering the requirements of Placemaking, i.e. it is designed and sited not only with reference to its own specifications and requirements but also in relation to the character of the area.

**In addition, it is our view that this is the preferred route to take in response to the requirements of LDP policy: sustainable development, which is dealt with later.**



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**This PDAS, in the interests of providing a more integrated and therefore easier to follow/negotiate narrative, combines what would otherwise comprise separate Planning and Design Statements.**

The planning application comprises the following set of drawings prepared by Nick Hobson, Hobson Architects:

Drawing Name	Drawing Number
Site Location Plan	SL001
Proposed Site Plan. Scale 1:500 @ A3	SL002
Proposed Site Plan. Scale: 1:1000 @ A3	SL003
Proposed Plan and Sections	P001
Proposed Elevations	P002

In addition to the above, the application includes:

Document	Prepared by
Planning Application Form	Hobson Architects
Planning, Design and Access Statement	meicplan.associates
Heads of Ayr Ecology Survey, October 2023	JK Ecology

This PDAS is divided into five further sections:

- Section 2 - Area Context and Site Analysis
- Section 3 - Planning History
- Section 4 - Assessment/Design Principles
- Section 5 - Proposals
- Section 6 - Summary/Conclusions

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## **2.0 AREA CONTEXT AND SITE ANALYSIS**

### **Area Context**

As Fig 1 and Planning Application Drawing No SL001 confirm, the site is located within Heads of Ayr Farm Park and otherwise approximately 250m to the west of the main complex of the Farm Park buildings.

The Farm Park's main entrance is approximately 4.5 miles from Ayr Town Centre and 1 mile from the southern edge of the settlement of Ayr as defined in LDP2.

### **Landscape Context**

In broad landscape terms, the site falls within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 59, i.e. 'Raised Beach, Coast and Cliffs' as defined by the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment which, it is understood, is recognised by South Ayrshire Council as a major reference source. An extract from NatureScot's Assessment showing the boundary of LCT 59 can be found on the following page.

Among the key characteristics described by NatureScot are:

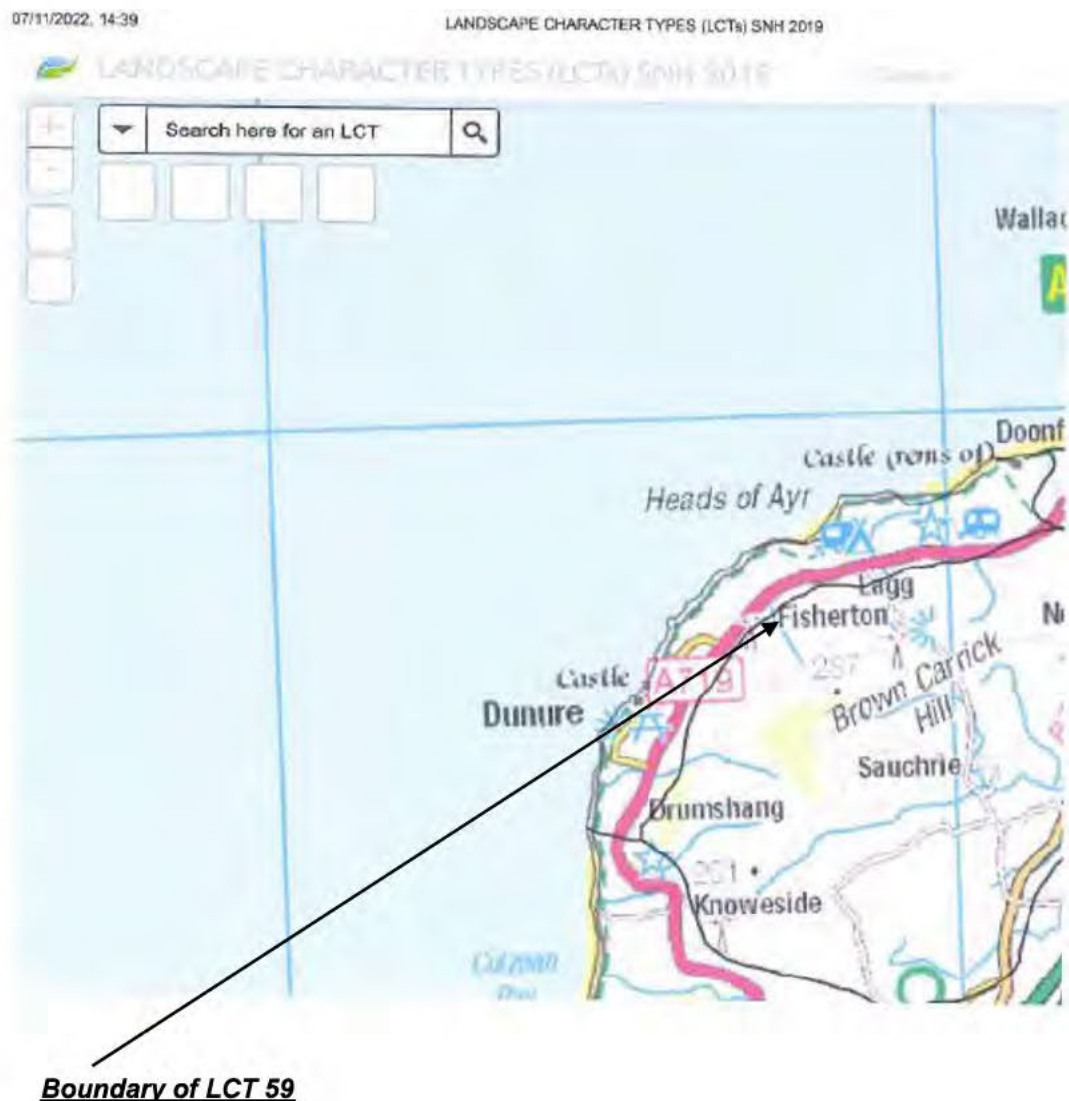
- (i) ***Raised beach, visible as a level shelf, backed by steep, sometimes craggy escarpment representing the former cliff line, above which lies more gently rising land.*** The Farm Park, as a whole, including the proposed site, is to be found substantially within the area of this latter feature. The low-level nature of the existing buildings – the Farm Park 'components' being substantially repurposed farm buildings – ensure a reduced impact on this overall setting. As the Planning Application Drawings confirm, this has underpinned the approach taken to the proposals.

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- (ii) ***Views tend to be longer distance and focused seaward.*** This remains the case despite recent developments and the proposals will not result in any change.

**Fig 3**



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**Settlement Pattern**

The closest relationship is with Heads of Ayr Nursery to the east and, beyond that, the primary concentration of Farm Park buildings 300m to the west.

In terms of an overall perspective of the scale, massing, etc of the Farm Park buildings, as previously stated, most of the current indoor uses occupy former agricultural buildings pertaining previously to Laigh Kyleston Farm. In relation to their scale and massing, the buildings are therefore typical Ayrshire farm buildings and are of no great height.

The approach taken to aspects of the details of the proposed Manager's House does, however, represent a degree of departure from this 'template and the explanation for this is provided in our response to Guidance: Rural Housing and in Part 5.0.

Nonetheless, on the matter of height and subsequent impact on the landscape/setting, the proposals, like the other buildings in the Farm Park, will be low so as not to offend the key characteristics of the landscape context described by NatureScot. This is illustrated by the details shown in Fig 5 later.

The proposed Manager's House and Animal Isolation Unit, for the reasons set out elsewhere in this Statement, need to be close together but, also with the latter use, requiring a level of physical isolation from other uses.

**The Site**

Importantly, the objective is to confirm the overall sustainability of the site. The site characteristics and its relationship with its setting is shown in Fig 5.

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**Site Boundaries, including their Relationship with Neighbours**

The proposed site is irregular in shape and, as shown in Planning Application Drawing No SL001, sits within a larger trapezoidal field lying to the west of the main Heads of Ayr Farm Park Complex.

The existing A719 runs along the southern edge of the Farm Park, with the existing vehicle access serving the Nursery located at the far south-western corner. The proposed access for the new development will be just within this existing access point. The access route will then run along the western boundary of the Farm Park/the field to the proposed site in the north-western corner of the field.

To the north of the development site lies the former coastal railway line which is now defined, in part, by a belt of mature and semi-mature deciduous trees.

To the west is the existing fence line to the adjoining agricultural land. To the south and east, the ground slopes away gently to the main Heads of Ayr Farm Complex to the east and the access road leading down to the Nursery and the rear of the Farm Park.

**Site Analysis**

- **Landscape/Topography**

The general characteristics are shown in Fig 5.

The site sits within a largely open trapezoidal field, with the high point located in the central section of the field. From the high point, which sits at approximately 48.3m OD, the ground slopes down to the north, south and east but less so to the west.

The proposed site will sit fairly tight into the north-western corner of the field, beyond the crown of the high ground, on the backslope down to the old railway line.

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By locating the proposed development on the backslope of the raised ground and using the tree belt as a backdrop, the proposals will be visually screened from the approaches along the A719 and any issue of 'skylining' will be mitigated.

- **Microclimate**

The general characteristics are also shown in Fig 5.

Due to the open nature of ground to the west, the site is exposed to the prevailing weather but does enjoy good outlooks to the south and east. The tree belt along the old railway line does provide a degree of shelter from northerly winds and, in landscape terms, a useful backdrop to the site.

With good southerly orientation, the site does provide opportunities for renewable energy generation via solar or wind.

- **Services**

The proximity of the adjoining Farm Park confirms that water, electricity and telephone supplies/capacity are nearby. Adjacent dwellings are served by private foul water septic tank or treatment plants.

The size and topography of the site means an onsite SUDS scheme would be possible to deal with surface water.

- **Connectivity/Accessibility**

A review of the current accessibility of the application site has been undertaken and this has included a review of walking, cycling and public transport provision.

The assessment of walking routes has shown that existing provision is generally good around the application site, through the Farm Park and

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along the A719 towards Ayr. There is a designated National Cycle Network route along the A719 immediately to the south of the application site which, in turn, links into a range of core and local paths, in particular to the north, as confirmed in the Council's 'Information on core paths in South Ayrshire', making cycling accessible. Bus stops are provided near to the application site on the A719 to the east of the Farm Park, access which offers hourly journeys in and around the local area as well as a connection to the train station in Ayr town centre.

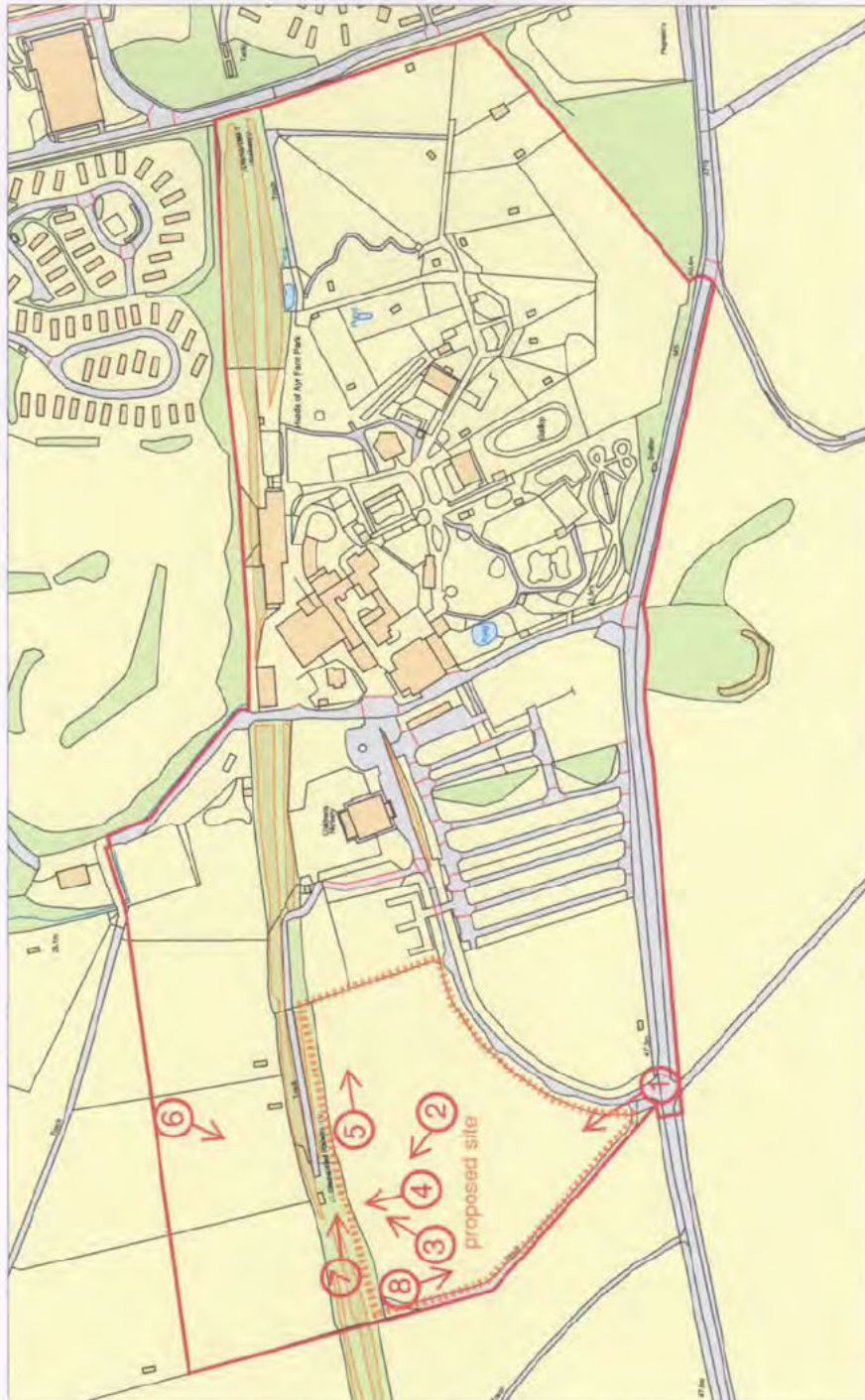
- **Current Use**  
Combined Farm/Zoo Park Paddock.



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**Fig 4: Photo Viewpoint Diagram**





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Viewpoint 1: approach from junction with A719



Viewpoint 2: view North towards site with tree belt in the background (winter)

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Viewpoint 3: looking East with backslope and tree belt along railway line.



Viewpoint 4: View looking North toward tree line along the old railway line.



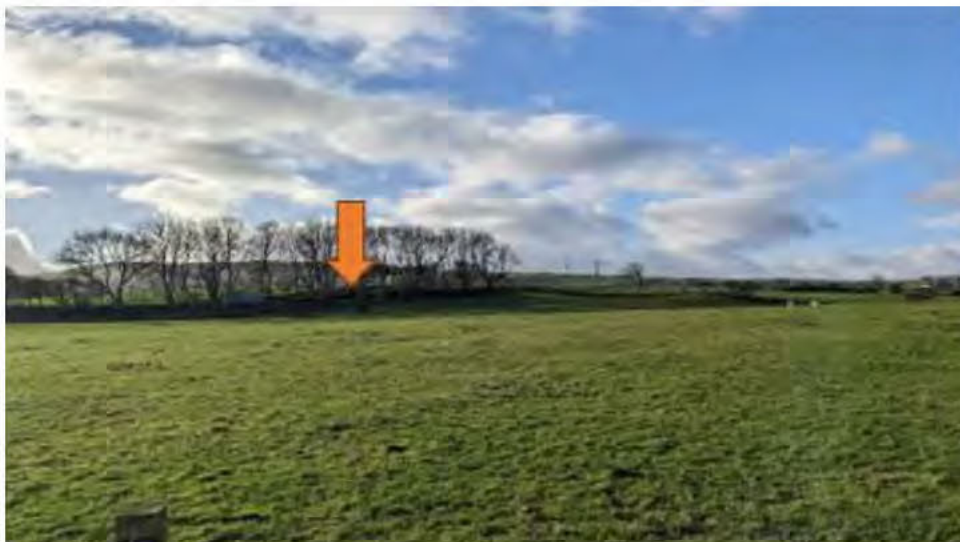
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Viewpoint 5: View looking East from the site with Heads of Ayr Farm Park visible.



Viewpoint 6: View looking South from the field beyond the tree belt/railway line.

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Viewpoint 7: View looking East from the old railway line, with site on the right.



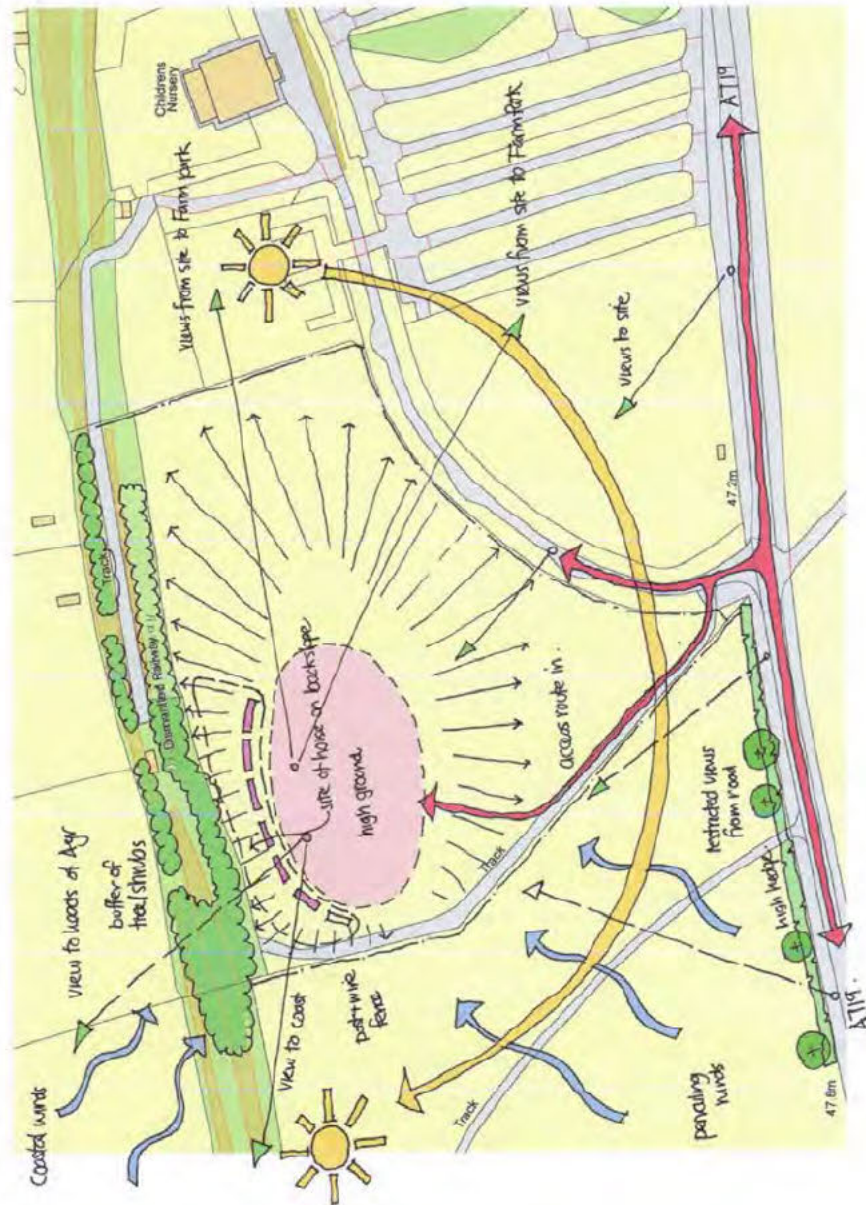
Viewpoint 8: View looking South along boundary, towards the A719.



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**Fig 5: Site Analysis Diagram - 1**



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### **3.0 PLANNING HISTORY**

Following the receipt of comments provided by the Planning Service dated 14 September 2023, Planning Application Ref No 23/00527/APP, validated on 20 September 2023, on behalf of the applicants, Craig and Edna Rankin, Laigh Kyleston, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD, was withdrawn by Nick Hobson, Hobson Architects, Seadcliff, Eglinton Terrace, Skelmorlie, PA17 5EP.

We are grateful for the consideration given by the Service to the proposals now withdrawn, and the opportunity provided the applicants to take the matters raised into account in this reapplication.

The Service's primary concerns in relation to the proposals are as set out in the initial paragraph of the e-mail dated 14 September 2023, namely:

1. their location relative to the existing buildings of the Farm Park,
2. the design of the development and
3. Ecological Considerations,

all of which are further expanded.

#### **1. The Location**

The e-mail refers specifically to the Council's Rural Housing Policy, previously Supplementary Guidance: Rural Housing. The Service will be aware that, because of changes to the Development Plan as a result of the adoption of NPF4 in February 2023, the current Rural Housing policy currently has the status of 'guidance' only since it is related to LDP1, not LDP2. A revised SG is yet to be prepared.

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Notwithstanding the changes in policy status, the choice of location remains an important consideration and, substantially, is dictated by the requirements of the Animal Isolation Unit.

Taking this requirement into account, a detailed review of potential locations for the new development was undertaken within the Farm Park and the outcome of this is described elsewhere in this Statement.

In response to a number of points made in the text of the e-mail, we would make the following responses:

**Comment**

***'... the case for an additional dwellinghouse to serve the farming operation ...'***

**Response**

This implies a 'typical' farm, which the Farm Park, of course, is not.

**Comment**

***'... it is understood that the existing buildings to the east of the site form the operational base and focus of the farm park enterprise ...'***

**Response**

With consent granted for an extension to the Children's Nursery, the proposed development would be 150m from the edge of the existing physical development envelop.

The proposals include an Isolation Unit and, as the term implies, a degree of separation between the proposals and the existing developed area is a requirement.

Notwithstanding, finding a site for the proposals was based on a number of practical considerations, requiring taking into account all of the



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current operational areas and not just where the current operational headquarters might be locating.

**Comment**

***'... rather than development being sited within an isolated peripheral location ...'***

**Response**

The Isolation Unit needs to be in a relatively isolated location.

It is a fact that the Farm Park Manager will have general responsibility for the operation as a whole but to suggest that, being located a few hundred metres to the west of the 'core area' of the Park puts overall management of the facility at a disadvantage, is unfounded.

**Comment**

***'... any proposed buildings or structures form or complement a coherent group of buildings and are not visually intrusive ...'***

**Response**

The point about the requirement for isolation has been made and it is our intention that the proposals are not visually intrusive as is confirmed by Planning Application Drawing Nos P001, P002, SL001 and SL002. What therefore would be the basis for concluding that the proposals would be visually intrusive? And the evidence for this?

**Comment**

***'... any additional dwellinghouse would require to be appropriately sited within, or in close proximity ...'***

**Response**

The Planning Service is well aware that 'how close this might be' will depend on several factors, including the layout of a farm, the nature of

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its operation, especially the presence of livestock. These are factors to be taken into account and involve safety as well as standard residential amenity consideration. All of this means that an 'appropriate location' might not always be '... within or in close proximity ...'. We maintain therefore that, because of the nature of the Farm Park operation and the requirements of the proposals, they are, in our opinion, 'appropriately located'.

**Comment**

***'... perhaps there is an opportunity to replace/update the existing facility with a new/improved isolation facility ...'***

**Response**

The current facility is not purpose-built and not now fit for purpose, in part because of the generally higher standards required and of the significant expansion in the number of existing species now present in the Farm Park. The current site is not isolated and, as explained elsewhere, is no longer acceptable for a facility of this kind and, as a 24/7 requirement, needs to be near the Manager's House. It should be pointed out that the Isolation Unit not only deals with sick animals but also includes regulatory required isolation of imported animals, etc. The building has to meet the requirements of the Balai Directive administered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and DEFRA.

**Comment**

***'... need for greenfield development ...'***

**Response**

The proposed site is within the Farm Park for which planning consent was granted in 1992.

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**Comment**

***'... use of previously developed land ...'***

**Response**

To be preferred perhaps but there are no opportunities of this kind within the Fig 1 area that satisfy the locational requirements.

**2. Design and Siting of New Housing**

**Comment**

***'... planning policies controlling the siting and design of new housing development acknowledges that planning policies controlling the siting and design of new housing in the countryside, it is important that cognisance is taken of the heritage of an area in order to preserve and enhance the countryside ...'***

**Response**

The Council's Rural Housing Policy also states that '*Contemporary design solutions will also be acceptable, where they can demonstrate the principles of good design set out in the design guidance*'. This is precisely the process gone through in the development of the proposals.

Indeed, an example of a contemporary design solution can be found approximately 2 miles from the proposed site, i.e. at Old Drumbain, Planning Application Ref No 22/00536/APP. The Report of Handling, in fact, describes the proposal as a '*contemporary dwelling*'.

The Design Statement accompanying Planning Application Ref No 22/00536/APP confirms an especially dramatic architectural solution that is clearly not typical of the 'area' and indeed, if built, would, in this case, involve the removal of Old Drumbain Cottage. In fact, the Drumbain proposals would not look out of place in a suburban location.

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**Comment**

*'... other rural residential properties within the locale are noted to typically reflect the simplicity of scale and form of traditional rural domestic architecture ...'*

**Response**

There is a certain vagueness and lack of precision on the part of the Planning Service here.

The 'locale' is nowhere defined by the Planning Service and, indeed, no guidance is provided as to how this idea might be interpreted and applied.

Indeed, experience suggests that the Service's use of these terms is a 'moveable feast'. We would, as do the applicants, for example, maintain that Old Drumbain is within the locale/area?

**Comment**

*'... more akin to a suburban dwellinghouse, ... etc ...'*

**Response**

The primary question here therefore is what do suburban dwellinghouses look like?

Again, the Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance/Guidance is unhelpful here. We have already made the point that the proposals for Old Drumbain could comfortably sit in an urban context, depending on the details of that context.

Suburban areas are locations that build up around the edge of cities. Because they are developed over time, the design, scale and massing of dwelling units will change, sometimes dramatically.

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The nearest example of where suburbs in the true sense of the word can be clearly identified is in the central part of the Clyde Conurbation. Typically, the most recently constructed suburbs comprise large housing estates dominated by two-storey single, semi-detached and short terrace units. Newton Mearns is probably where the closest example to South Ayrshire is to be found, comprising hundreds of units of 'modern design and appearance'. The proposals are clearly not therefore typically suburban. That said, the evidence suggests that the Planning Service has elsewhere been content to approve new houses in the countryside which could, in terms of scale, massing and materials, well fit into an urban and, indeed, suburban context (examples can be provided) and, on occasions, in highly visible locations.

Are the proposals for Old Drumbain 'less suburban' in appearance, etc because these too, in our opinion, could sit well within an urban context?

**Comment**

***'... visual prominence of the site gives rise to concerns that the proposals are incongruous for the proposed location ...'***

**Response**

As stated earlier, the location was eventually selected because of the particular requirements of the proposals and the extent of operational land and buildings within the Farm Park. This is not just a house. As already mentioned, it is important to note that the evidence suggests that the Planning Service has been less than consistent in its concern for 'visual prominence' of a number of new housing developments in the countryside.

Planning Application Drawing Nos P001, P002, SL001 and SL002 confirm that the proposals would not be visually prominent.

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Indeed, the assessment would benefit from details provided by the Planning Service re how they might have come to this conclusion.

**Comment**

***'... to explore with the applicant to resite an alternatively designed dwellinghouse ...'***

**Response**

The whole of the area of the Farm Park, as shown in Fig 1, was explored. Alternative locations were therefore investigated and discounted for the reasons explained elsewhere.

As the aforementioned will confirm, we are, on this occasion, otherwise unable to agree with the Planning Service's assessment and conclusions arrived at in relation to either the location or design of the development.

**3. Ecological Considerations**

The Ecological Review prepared by AECOM dated 2 August 2023 in relation to the withdrawn application states that *'The Proposed Development will be sited on what appears to be agricultural grassland likely to be of low ecological value'*. In its conclusions, the Review states that *'The current proposals are likely to be sufficient to achieve an overall enhancement from the Proposed Development'*.

These are not significantly changed and AECOM's comments remain valid.

AECOM advised that the applicants should undertake an Ecology Survey to confirm the existence or otherwise of *'protected ecological features (e.g. bat roots or badger setts)'*.

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JK Ecology of 22 North Dumgoyne Avenue, Milngavie, G62 7JT were instructed to undertake an Ecology Survey. Their report dated October 2023 forms part of the planning application.

Part 4.5 of the JK Ecology report provides a Summary of recommended mitigation measures.

We are in agreement with these and would expect them to form the basis of relevant planning conditions should a consent be achieved.

In addition, the AECOM Review makes the point that, while the previous Planning, Design and Access Statement suggests that native tree and shrub planting will be *'along the western and south-western edges of the site'* and will *'help reinforce the existing tree belt along the old railway line'* but that the PDAS is unclear whether there will be any tree planting within the disused railway line which, in AECOM's opinion *'... would be very beneficial and could enhance this green corridor'*.

The Review goes on to state *'... Although the current proposals are likely sufficient to provide an overall gain for biodiversity from the Proposed Development, should the Applicant wish, this could go even further by enhancing connectivity to the SSSI/LWS by extending tree/hedgerow planting further along the disused railway line and/or the field boundary to the north. This would deliver a significant overall biodiversity enhancement from the Proposed Development by linking areas of habitat in the wider landscape'*.

**All of these locations are in the ownership of the applicants who are confirming their preparedness to undertake the aforementioned suggestions.**



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#### **4.0 ASSESSMENT / DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

It is generally agreed that inevitably the eventual outcome regarding any proposal is influenced/underpinned by a range of considerations.

The principal ones, in our opinion, in this case are:-

- (i) the characteristics of the site, its location and setting within the broader and immediately surrounding landscape/countryside
  - (ii) the characteristics of the pattern of development in this part of the countryside
  - (iii) the requirements of the Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance, and
  - (iv) where applicable, relevant Material (planning) Considerations
- (i) **The characteristics of the site, its location and setting within the broader and immediately surrounding landscape/countryside**

As stated earlier, understanding and interpreting the characteristics of the site within its setting are vitally important to the delivery of a successful outcome. Details of the broader and local contexts, in order to establish a baseline for assessing the capacity of the site in landscape terms to absorb the proposals, are described in Part 2.0.

The response to these requirements is to be found in the details of the proposals as described in Part 5.0, Proposals, later, and in Planning Application Drawing Nos P001 and P002, copies of which are to be found in the Appendix.

**(ii) The characteristics of the pattern of development in this part of the countryside**

The immediate context is dominated by the two major developments, namely Craig Tara Holiday Park and the Farm Park. The relationship between the proposals and the rest of the Farm Park is described elsewhere but, while in architectural terms they represent a change, it is considered that, in terms of potential impact on the landscape setting, the 'low in the landscape, single-storey approach' to developments within the Farm Park elsewhere has been maintained. These details are confirmed in Part 5.0.

**(iii) The requirements of the Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance**

Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) dictates that a planning application should be determined in accordance with the adopted Development Plan unless there are other material considerations to justify otherwise.

**Development Plan**

- The Development Plan for the site is the South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2, adopted August 2022
- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), Scottish Government, adopted 13 February 2023

**Other Planning Policy Guidance and Advice**

- Guidance: Rural Housing
- Guidance: Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments
- Guidance: Rural Business Procedure Note

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- Planning Advice Note 61 – Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, Scottish Government, July 2001
- Planning Advice Note 68: Design Statements, Scottish Government, August 2013
- Planning Advice Note 72: Housing in the Countryside, Scottish Government, February 2005
- Planning Advice Note 77: Designing Safe Places, Scottish Government, March 2006
- Planning Advice Note 73 – Rural Diversification
- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

**Other Relevant Material Considerations**

**Economic Development**

- Carrick Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan, South Ayrshire Council, 2008
- South Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy, 2013 – 2023
- South Ayrshire Strategic Economic Plan Vision 2020 – 2030, January 2021
- Ayrshire Growth Deal
- National Strategy for Economic Development

**Landscape**

- NatureScot Environmental Assessment: Landscaping, November 2019
- South Ayrshire Landscape Capacity Study – Appendix, Updated August 2018

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## **South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2**

In our opinion, the relevant policies and our response to their requirements are as follows:

### **Part 1 – The Strategy**

#### **The Priorities of LDP2**

##### **B – Our Communities**

**Core Principle B1** *'recognises the importance of existing ... business locations (within and outside towns)'.*

##### **Core Principle B7**

***'We will support flexible growth within the Carrick Investment Area ...'***

Heads of Ayr Farm Park is a major local example of 'flexible growth' within the Carrick Investment Area. The proposals are a direct requirement arising out of the operations of the Farm Park which, if approved, will help underpin its sustainability as a business.

##### **Core Principle B8**

***'We will support the development of rural ... business development and diversification in appropriate locations'.***

***'Support proposals for new housing in the countryside that accord with Development Plan Policy and SG: Rural Housing'.***

The proposals are compatible with the requirements of Core Principle B8.

##### **C – Our Environmental Responsibilities**

***'... we will be mindful of our responsibilities for the protection of our natural ... resources'***

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The proposals are located within the Brown Carrick Hills and Coast Local Landscape Area, and a Transition Area in respect of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve. As the details of the assessment of environmental impact contained elsewhere in this Report confirm, the proposals would not impact adversely on the requirements of these policies.

In addition, the Council's Environment and Conservation Mapping confirms that the proposals would not negatively implicate any of the categories shown. Among the Core Principles, C - 'Our Environmental Responsibilities' is underpinned by a number of points in relation to 'Rationale' arising out of a range of concerns identified during consultation. Those of relevance to the proposals are:

- **Damage to the environment and ecosystems.** The Report prepared by AECOM for the Council re the withdrawn application, together with the Ecology Survey prepared by JK Ecology, confirm that the proposals would have no measurable negative impact on biodiversity. There is no evidence to suggest that the proposals would result in a biodiversity deficit.
- **Impacts of development on landscape quality.** Evidence provided elsewhere in this Statement confirms that there would be no measurable impact on landscape quality, as described in NatureScot's LCT59.

**Core Principle C1**

The key one in relation to the proposals is:

- **Ensure Local Landscape Areas, the Coast .....are treated with due respect.** Information provided elsewhere in this Statement re NatureScot's LCT59 will describe that this has been achieved.

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**The Strategic Policies**

A number of these are relevant, namely:

- **B1. Support the principle of sustainable economic development**

As the Farm Park has developed, the range of on-site species has expanded significantly and is now a major contributor to its attractiveness as a destination, with the number of visitors per annum reaching 200,000.

The new, replacement Animal Isolation Unit will, in turn, make a significance to strengthening the Park's animal welfare infrastructure and thereby the sustainability of the business as a whole.

The new house will improve on-site accommodation and, although from a different perspective, will also strengthen the overall infrastructure of the Farm Park.

- **B8. Support for rural ... business development and diversification**

Heads of Ayr Farm Park is probably the most successful example of the diversification of a rural development in South Ayrshire.

- **A1. Support for the aims of the Ayrshire Growth Deal**

As part of the overall Heads of Ayr Farm Park, the replacement Animal Isolation Unit and new Manager's House would contribute, if indirectly, to the AGS's aspirations to develop tourism further.

- **B7. Support for flexible growth in Carrick ...**

The development forms part of a successfully developed business within the Carrick Investment Area. The proposals therefore comply with the requirements of the relevant Strategic Policies.

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**Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development**

States that the Council: '*... will support the principles of sustainable development by making sure that development meets the following standards:*

- **Respects, protects and, where possible, enhances natural, built and cultural heritage resources**

The Council's Environment and Conservation Mapping confirms that the proposals are nowhere near any of these identified resources.

- **Protects and safeguards the integrity of designated sites**

The Council's Environment and Conservation Mapping confirms that the proposals would not impact negatively on any designated sites, even though they are relatively close to an SSSI/LWS. AECOM have suggested that biodiversity enhancement on the proposed site could be linked by tree/hedgerow planting outwith the site.

- **Protects peat resources and carbon rich soils**

No implications.

- **Does not have a negative effect on air or water quality**

It is anticipated that the proposals would have no measurable consequences for either.

- **Incorporates sustainable urban drainage and avoids increasing (and where possible reduces) risks of, or from, all forms of flooding**

SEPA Flood Maps indicate that the site is not in an area at risk from river or surface water flooding.



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**SUDS**

The proposed Manager's House and Isolation Unit will discharge surface water run-off from the roof to appropriately sized soakaways. In addition, the proposals are for landscaping surfaces to be permeable to facilitate free drainage.

- **Respects the character of the landscape and the setting of settlements**

The proposals are some 1 mile from the southern boundary of the settlement of Ayr. In terms of the 'setting of settlements', the more relevant relationship is with the rest of the Farm Park and therefore development to the immediate west.

In relation to potential impact on the character of the landscape, LDP confirms that the site falls within the Brown Carrick Hills and Coast Local Landscape Area. It is otherwise within SNH's Natural Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 59 – Raised Beach, Coast and Cliffs.

**Both Craig Tara Holiday Park and Heads of Ayr Farm Park are, in LDP2, Appendix B: Coastal Development shown as Intensively Developed 'enclaves' within a 'Partly Developed' overall context.**

The guidelines for 'Intensive' state:

Intensive	Intensive coastal locations are outwith the primary urbanised resort areas, often in highly sensitive landscapes, but which can nonetheless absorb a high level of visitor pressure through comprehensively managed facilities. Dispersal of activities beyond current limits would need to be fully justified by developers/operators. Enhancement works to existing facilities which improve visual amenity will be encouraged. Sensitive development for the provision of recreation and tourism visitor facilities is encouraged. Given the particularly sensitive nature of the surrounding landscape, it is not expected that development will extend beyond the boundaries as detailed in the Coastal Strategy Diagram.
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In terms of scale and massing, as Planning Application Drawing Nos SL001 and SL002 supported by the photographs earlier confirm, the scale will be such that the proposals will not detract from visual amenity. Care has been taken to literally insert the structures into the topography and to position the building on the backslope of the high ground and use the slope to minimise the impact. In addition, siting the buildings in front of the existing tree belt 'skylining' will be avoided.

The proposed buildings are therefore low lying, although not of a traditional rural nature.

- **Respects and, where possible, contributes to the Central Scotland Green Network**

The Council has yet to publish its proposals in relation to the above.

- **Makes efficient use of land and resources**

LDP2 provides no guidance as to what 'makes efficient use' entails. Currently, the site is in grass.

- **Ensures appropriate provision for waste water treatment, avoids the proliferation of private treatment systems and connects foul drainage to the public sewerage system wherever feasible**

Waste water from the new Manager's House and Isolation Unit will discharge to the existing waste water treatment plant and secondary reed bed located to the east of the site as indicated on Planning Application Drawing No SL001.

- **Contributes to an efficient use of, or provision for, public services, facilities and infrastructure**

LDP2 does not define public services or facilities but infrastructure is described as including roads, sewers, schools and supplies of gas,

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water, electricity and other services needed to allow the development to take place.

The proposed development would not require additional infrastructure investment.

Water supply would be taken from the adjoining Farm Park supply. The property will not require a gas supply due to the use of renewables for heating and hot water. Mains electricity will come from the existing supply to the Farm Park. However, the use of PV panels and battery storage will minimise the reliance.

- **Embraces the principles of 'Placemaking' and the '6 qualities of Place'**

Details are to be found in Part 5.0 but the underlying objective has been to relate the proposals to 'the place' that contains the concentration of Farm Park buildings to the east.

- **Wherever possible, is in an accessible location, with opportunities for the use of public transport, and other sustainable transport modes including cycling and walking**

Details provided later in response to the requirements of LDP policy: land use and transport.

- **Designed to maximise energy efficiency through building siting, orientation and materials**

Details are to be found in Part 5.0.

- **Helps mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change**

SEPA maps confirm that the site is not in a flood risk area. On-site soakaways, in addition to permeable landscape surfaces, will attenuate rainwater discharge coupled with additional tree planting along the

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western boundary to provide both additional screening and improve biodiversity.

- **Includes the use of micro-renewables, wherever appropriate**

Due to the southerly aspect, the proposal is to locate a PV panel array on the south-facing roof with a battery storage. This would be complemented with an Air Source Heat Pump to provide both hot water and heating loads.

- **Respects the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Objectives**

The Zero Waste Plan for Scotland proposes long-term targets for recycling 70% of Scotland's waste and only 5% of all waste ending up in landfill in 2025.

The intention is to use materials in the construction that either use recycled materials or that can be easily recycled at the end of life, for example, timber-frame construction, natural insulation products, stonework, recycled slate roofing, etc.

The proposals can therefore be confirmed as adhering to the principles of sustainable development as set out in this policy.

**Strategic Policy 2: Development Management**

- **Promote and facilitate the ability of LDP2 to deliver and achieve its aim to 'make the most of sustainable economic growth that is supported by sound social and environmental objectives'**

This is a wide-ranging criterion but, specifically, the proposals will, via the role they will play vis-à-vis the Heads of Ayr Farm Park business, contribute to sustainable economic growth.

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- **Are in accordance with the site's land use as defined in the Proposals Map**

The site falls within the Countryside but is also within Heads of Ayr Farm Park which has been designated an area of 'Intensive Development' in LDP2, Coastal Strategy.

- **Are appropriate in terms of layout, scale, massing, design and materials in relation to their surroundings and surrounding land uses**

The details can be found in Part 5.0.

- **Do not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of nearby land uses, or committed development proposals (with Planning Permission or allocated LDP development sites)**

Planning Application Drawing No SL001 confirms that the proposals would not compromise the amenity of other, and in particular, housing developments.

- **Are appropriate to the local area in terms of road safety, parking provision and effects on the transport network**

These matters are dealt with later in response to the requirements of LDP policy: land use and transport.

- **Are designed in a way that helps prevent crime**

The location, approach and layout of the proposals offer good overseeing to all approaches. Furthermore, windows and doors will be to Secure by Design standard and the property will be fitted with a monitored security system.

- **Are not within Health and Safety Executive safeguarding zones if this would lead to increased risk or danger**

The proposed site is not within or near a safeguarding zone.

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- **Address issues of land instability where they are identified as being present on the site**

There are no known stability issues, either historically or currently, within the development site.

- **Make appropriate provision for all infrastructure implications of the development**

Refer to earlier comments re levels of provision.

- **Are located within a settlement boundary or otherwise justified by LDP subject-specific policies or locational need**

The site, while in the Countryside, is otherwise within the boundary of Heads of Ayr Farm Park, which falls within an area shown as 'Intensive' in LDP2, Appendix B: Coastal Development Strategy.

- **Includes open space and landscaping that is appropriate for the location and use of the proposed development**

Details are to be found in Part 5.0

- **Do not result in the loss of an area of maintained amenity or recreational open space unless allocated for development in the Policy and Proposals Maps**

The proposals would have no negative consequences for areas of maintained amenity or recreational open space.

- **If contrary to specific LDP policies are justified to our satisfaction, on the basis they are (1) of overriding community interest, or (2) will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Ayrshire Growth Deal or the regeneration of Ayr, and will have no significant adverse environment effects**

**The proposals, in our opinion, are not contrary to LDP2 policies and, specifically, they have a significant role to play within the context of the Heads of Ayr Farm Park business.**

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**LDP policy: delivering infrastructure**

The policy states that the Council will expect all new development proposals to include:

*'a. All on site infrastructure which is directly related to the proposed use and is required to allow the effective operation of the proposed use ...'*

Existing infrastructure is considered sufficient.

**LDP policy: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere**

The site falls on the north-west margin of the Transition Zone. The proposed development is of a very small scale and is not likely to impact negatively on the objectives of this policy.

**LDP policy: landscape quality**

None of the *'features that contribute to local distinctiveness'* as listed a. to f. inclusive would be affected by the proposals. The site is on the north-western edge of the Brown Carrick Hills and Coast Local Landscape Area and also falls within SNH's National Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 59. The guidelines provided by the latter in relation to new developments have been applied, together with those of LDP2, Coastal Developments.

**LDP policy: the coast**

The guidelines provided by the Coastal Strategy Diagram and Coastal Development Guidance (contained in Appendix B of LDP2) have been recognised, along with the advice provided by SNH's National Character Assessment (see above).

**LDP policy: green networks**

Refer to earlier comments.



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**LDP policy: water environment**

The proposals are relatively close to the Carwinshoch Burn but surface water discharge will be to soakaways adjacent to the property and waste water will be discharged to the existing waste water treatment and reed bed.

**LDP policy: flood and development**

The site is not within a flood risk area as defined by SEPA, is not on a flood plain or would involve land raising. Proposed SUDS are described earlier.

**LDP policy: agricultural land**

No part of the site is used for agricultural purposes.

**LDP policy: air, noise and light pollution**

The proposals would not '*... expose people to unacceptable levels of air, noise or light pollution*'.

**LDP policy: low- and zero-carbon buildings**

The proposals, as described in Part 5.0, are designed to be compliant with the requirements of Building (Scotland) Amended Regulations, 15 June 2022.

**LDP policy: renewable energy**

The proposals are designed to be compliant with the requirements of Building (Scotland) Amended Regulations, 15 June 2022.

**LDP policy: natural heritage**

The proposals would have no detrimental effect on designated sites. There are otherwise no features of conservation value. The overall aim, as described elsewhere, is to enhance the biodiversity within the site.

**LDP policy: land use and transport**

In response to the requirements of policy, it can be concluded that:

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- the application site is located in close proximity to well-established pedestrian routes to the east along the A719
- designated cycle routes pass along the A719 to the south of the application site
- existing bus stops are located on the A719 to the south of the application site, providing access to an hourly bus service
- the development proposals contain a number of on-site measures to enhance accessibility to the site
- the site lies in close proximity and with good access to both the local and strategic road networks

**National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)**

On 13 February 2023, NPF4 became part of the statutory Development Plan.

Part 2 of NPF4 sets out the policies of the Plan. Many of the policies have interrelated objectives but, in our opinion, those that are of more direct relevance to the proposals are:

**Sustainable Places**

**Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises**

This states that '*when considering **all** development proposals, significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises*'.

In relation to 'Policy impact', the proposals can be seen to be sustaining the objectives of 'Local living' by not resulting in travel to work requirements and 'Rural revitalisation'.

**Policy 2: Climate mitigation and adaptation**

Details to be found in Part 5.0, Proposals.

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**Policy 3: Biodiversity**

Policy Intent is *'to protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature network'*.

The Policy states that proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in accordance with national and local guidance.

In commenting on the now withdrawn Planning Application Ref No 23/00527/APP, the Planning Service instructed AECOM to undertake an Ecological Review of the proposals as they stood at the time and which remain substantially unaltered.

Out response to the outcome of the Review is detailed in Part 3.0 earlier. The current application includes an Ecology Survey prepared by JK Ecology which provides a response to the AECOM Review and this is also dealt with in Part 3.0 earlier.

The proposals aim to create an additional native species tree belt along the western and south-western edges of the site. This will not only provide shelter from the prevailing winds but also provide protection for additional shrub/ground cover underneath and help reinforce the existing tree belt along the old railway line, although these are currently outwith the red line boundary.

As stated earlier in response to the AECOM Review, the applicants are amenable to delivering ways of strengthening the potential green corridor to the north.

**Policy 5: Soils**

The Policy Intent is *'to protect carbon-rich soils ... minimise disturbance to soils from development'*.

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The policy states that development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed to minimise the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land. Otherwise however, development on prime agricultural land should, through LDPs, be supported if they are small scale and directly linked to a rural business.

**Policy 6: Forestry, woodland and trees**

Refer to response to Policy 3.

**Policy 10: Coastal Development**

The proposals are shown in SEPA maps to be unaffected by coastal flooding and would otherwise comply with the requirements of this policy.

**Policy 12: Zero Waste**

Section 5 of this Report notes the intention to use materials in the construction of the buildings which are natural and environmentally friendly, wherever possible, are sourced within Scotland the UK and can be easily recycled at the end of life.

**Policy 13: Sustainable Transport**

Refer to response to LDP2 policy: land use and transport earlier in this Statement.

**Liveable Places**

**Policy 14, Design, quality and place**

Response to the requirements of this policy is to be found in Part 5.0.

**Policy 16: Quality Homes**

Response to the requirements of this policy is to be found in Part 5.0.

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**Policy 17: Rural Homes**

The proposals are compatible with criterion (v), i.e.: *'... it is demonstrated to be necessary to support the sustainable management of a viable rural business ...to live permanently at or near their place of work.*

As confirmed elsewhere, the proposal 'is suitable in terms of location, access and environmental impact'.

**Productive Places**

**Policy 26: Business and Industry**

The proposals are intended to strengthen the viability/sustainability of a business that takes account of local economic strategies and is compatible with the surrounding area.

**Policy 29: Rural Development**

The Policy Intent is to encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification.

The proposals contribute to the strengthening of the sustainability of Heads of Ayr Farm Park as described elsewhere. The business is a prime example of innovation and diversification.

The proposals otherwise comply with the requirements of:

- 'a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities, etc will be supported, including:*
  - ii) diversification of existing businesses*
- b) Should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area'*

They should also consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for a rural location.

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In our opinion, the proposals would comply with these requirements.

**Guidance: Rural Housing**

Previously accorded the status of Supplementary Guidance and therefore forming part of the Local Development Plan which marks a downgrading of materiality since the adoption of LDP2. Nevertheless, in constructing the proposals, reference has been made to this document.

**Part 1 states that 'Guidance for new houses in rural areas is not intended to ensure only traditional design solutions will be acceptable. Contemporary design solutions will also be acceptable where they can demonstrate the principles of good design set out in the design guidance'.**

A detailed response to the Planning Service's concerns about the approach taken to the scale and massing of the proposals is to be found in Part 3.0.

**PAN 73: Rural Diversification**

Heads of Ayr Farm Park, as a whole, is a particularly good example of sustainable rural diversification.

**Economic Development Policy Context**

The South Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2023 confirms the need for improving economic growth with South Ayrshire performing at levels below the Scottish average. The Strategy also emphasises the need for further diversification and the need to foster an entrepreneurial culture. Heads of Ayr Farm Park delivers on both of these.

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Concerns were also expressed about the resilience of the South Ayrshire economy. The Farm Park is an important example of resilience, having grown and developed in the face of significant challenges to the local economy over the last fifteen years or so, and especially so more recently. It is a prime example of an injection of much-needed private-sector investment by an indigenous company.

The South Ayrshire Strategic Economic Plan: Vision 2030, June 2021, in its Introduction, details the challenges ahead for the economy. The Plan aims to '*create capacity to respond to economic shocks*'.

Heads of Ayr Farm Park with its innovatory approach to the development, in this instance of a tourist/leisure destination, but with a difference, has confirmed its agility to cope with change and robustly respond to '*economic shocks*'.

**The proposals represent an upgrading of the Manager's House accommodation and the Animal Isolation Unit, both contributing to enhancing the viability and resilience of the business overall and thereby help to fulfil the ambitions of:**

- Carrick Economic Development Strategy and Advice Plan
- Ayrshire Growth Deal



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## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

Part 5.0 is intended to provide/set out the response for which we consider to be the 'principal considerations' affecting any eventual development outcome, as set out at the beginning of Part 4.0 earlier.

### **Landscape Context**

The broad landscape context and settlement pattern are described in Part 2.0, together with the detailed characteristics of the site. Part 4.0 identifies what, in our opinion, are the relevant policy considerations.

### **Concept**

The proposals are for the erection of a single-storey detached Farm Park Manager's House alongside a dedicated Animal Isolation Unit positioned on the backslope of the high ground in the centre of the existing paddock.

Access to the dwellinghouse would be via the existing opening on the southern edge of the existing Nursery access road linking to the A719.

The proposals are indicated on Drawing Nos P001 and P002.

This is an in principle application and the details by implication are indicative. The opportunity has nevertheless been taken to provide sufficient information based on a detailed assessment of the landscape context, the site itself and the requirements of planning policy, etc to confirm that a development might be delivered here that is compatible with these requirements.

While the proposals have more directly been influenced than elsewhere within the Farm Park by the topography of the site and the aim to minimise the visual impact from the main road and approaches both west and east, the low

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**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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in the landscape single-storey approach to the development with the Farm Park elsewhere has been maintained.

The overall aesthetic is therefore single storey, low-pitched roofs, broken roofscape to break up massing and a rural palette of materials, but expressed in a more modern manner, for example timber cladding with feature stone panels, slate roofing but with some feature grey zinc roofing to some areas and larger window openings to living areas to respond to the orientation and views.

**Requirements of NPF4**

In relation to the six qualities set out in NPF4, Policy 14, 'Design, quality and place', the indicative proposals address the points as follows:

**Healthy:** *Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.*

The proposals will be welcoming and fully accessible for both occupiers and visitors alike, with a close association to the adjoining landscape and the visual link to the existing Farm Park.

**Pleasant:** *Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.*

Proposed planting will screen the proposals from the prevailing weather but also increase the biodiversity of the site. The design of the building will provide sheltered spaces to the private amenity ground but also offer a close physical relation to the existing landscape.

**Connected:** *Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency.*

Despite the fact that an Isolation Unit should not be close to other uses within the Farm Park, the new development will be easily walkable to the main complex. It will also have direct access to the A719.

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**Distinctive:** *Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.*

The buildings have been designed in a more contemporary style whilst utilising traditional materials such as stonewalling, timber cladding and slate roofing.

The design and layout respond to its immediate setting by maintaining a low profile, orientated to maximise the views to the enhanced tree belt along the disused railway line whilst shielding the more private garden grounds from the prevailing weather.

The proposed planting along the south-western boundary will improve the biodiversity of the site as well as provide additional screening from both the weather and the approach from the south west.

**Sustainable:** *Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.*

The building will be built to the highest level of thermal performance and air tightness coupled with sustainable energy generation via PV panels and heating via ASHP. Locating the Manager's House here along with the Isolation Unit will allow the redevelopment and refurbishment of the vacant buildings into additional accommodation for Farm Park managers and employees.

**Adaptable:** *Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.*

By relocating the Senior Manager's House and the Isolation Unit outwith the existing Farm Park complex allows the vacant buildings to be adapted to the changing demands of the business going forward.

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**Landscaping and Parking**

Positioning the building on the backslope of the high ground allows the building to be built into the slope, thereby reducing its visual impact on approaches. In addition, the cut material will be used to form stepped landscaping terraces off the main living areas to the north while retaining walls to the south, into the slope will demark parking and access routes, both for the House and the adjoining Isolation Unit and afford a degree of privacy and screening, both for the manager, staff and animals using the buildings.

The proposed Landscape Plan is shown in the Planning Application Drawing No SL002 in the Appendix.

**Structural Considerations**

The proposed new dwellinghouse would likely be timber-frame structure sitting on masonry underbuilding, bearing on reinforced concrete strip foundations.

The roof structures would be prefabricated or engineered timber trusses supported directly by the timber kits.

**Sustainability and Energy Efficiency**

The aim would be to achieve, as a minimum, an EPC rating of Band A. To reduce heating loads, the walls, floors and roofs of the new build housing would be heavily insulated with triple-glazed windows to minimise heat losses.

The proposals would utilise micro-renewable technology and with potentially, specifically, an air source heat pump providing hot water and underfloor heating.

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Designs would incorporate PV panels on the south-facing roof slopes.

**Foul Sewerage**

The dwellinghouse would be served by private foul water discharge to a primary and secondary treatment plant, with surface water linked to either on-site soakaways.

Both foul and surface water systems would be developed with a suitably qualified drainage consultant at subsequent stages in accordance with Scottish Water, SEPA and SAC requirements.

**Materials**

Although the proposals are indicative at this stage, the following is suggested:

**New dwellinghouse**

**Substructure:**

- Insulated ground-bearing concrete slab with concrete strip founds and masonry underbuilding

**Superstructure (including Roof Panels):**

- Prefabricated timber-panel system with high-performance woodfibre wool insulation supplemented with woodfibre insulation internally

**External Finishes (Wall):**

- Silicone-based wet dash render system or natural stone walling panels to new dwellinghouse with feature panels in sustainable, Scottish-sourced timber boarding.

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*External Finishes (Roof):*

- Recycled slate roofing with feature dark grey zinc standing seam roofing panels.

*Windows and Screens:*

- Timber triple-glazed high-performance windows exterior

*Electricity, Heating and Hot Water:*

- Mains electricity
- Air source heat pump: underfloor heating and hot water storage
- MHRV system
- PV panels on south-facing roofs with battery storage

## **6.0 SUMMARY / CONCLUSIONS**

### **(a) Economic Significance**

- The South Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2023 confirms the need for improving economic growth, with South Ayrshire consistently performing at levels below the Scottish Average

The Strategy also emphasises the need for further diversification and the need to foster an entrepreneurial culture.

Heads of Ayr Farm Park has delivered in respect of both and, provided that the realisation of further opportunities will be encouraged and supported, will continue to do so. The Farm Park opened in May 1993 and has been subject to an ongoing diversification process since then.

- The Strategy also expressed concerns about the resilience of the South Ayrshire economy. The Farm Park is an important example of resilience, having grown and developed when frequently overall economic circumstances have posed significant challenges
- **The importance of the proposals' contribution to the further strengthening of the robustness of the overall operation of the Farm Park therefore cannot be underestimated**
- The Farm Park is a prime example of an ongoing investment by a locally owned and locally rooted company with a commitment to the local area
- The South Ayrshire Strategic Economic Plan: Vision 2030, in its Introduction, details the challenges ahead for the economy. The



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Plan aims to '*create capacity to respond to economic shocks*'. Heads of Ayr Farm Park, with its widely recognised innovatory approach, has confirmed its agility to cope with change and robustly respond to '*economic shocks*' which have, in reality, been virtually ongoing for up to fifteen years

- The Ayrshire Growth Deal emphasises the need to enhance '*the existing tourism offer*' to make Ayrshire a highly desirable destination
- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 confirms that 13% of those in employment have jobs in tourism and states that: '*We will look favourably on proposals which will provide or improve tourist and leisure infrastructure and we will support keeping and improving existing significant leisure, recreation and tourist facilities*'
- Heads of Ayr Farm Park, with its 200,000 visitors per annum, providing 37 full-time and 80 part-time jobs, is quite clearly a significant leisure/tourist facility, with an ongoing improvement programme of which the proposals form an important part

**As a consequence of the significant and continuing increase in both the number and range of exotic species, animal welfare requirements have become more complex through need for care on a 24/7 basis and has otherwise intensified.**

- Heads of Ayr Farm Park has been one of the major economic development success stories in South Ayrshire. The winner of a range of awards, the most recent of these being the NFAN's Large Farm Attraction of the Year award 2022. Specifically recognised by the Scottish Parliament and Westminster as an asset to the community and local tourism, the facility cannot 'stand still' and

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further investment of the kind mentioned in this report is required, albeit within sustainable limits

- With its origins in a traditional farm in the countryside, the Farm Park represents one of the most successful examples of rural diversification in Ayrshire

The overall context for these proposals is set out in the Heads of Ayr Farm Park Development Context Statement, January 2023, which forms part of this application.

**(b) Emerging Housing Requirement**

- While the new House would provide accommodation for the overall manager, who currently would be the applicant and who is one of the company directors, three other directors are employed full-time in the various activities located within the Farm Park. Currently, the situation is therefore that all three are required to travel to work. Ideally, all three would be housed within the Farm Park. The construction of the Manager's House and the Isolation Unit would allow occupation by one of them of the vacated Farmhouse.

**(c) The Proposals**

- Currently, the existing 'Manager's House', i.e. Laigh Kyleston Farmhouse, and current Animal Isolation Unit are not adjacent.
- It is generally agreed that inevitably the eventual outcome regarding any proposal is influenced/underpinned by a range of considerations.

The principal ones in this case are:-

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- (i) the characteristics of the site, its location and setting within the broader and immediately surrounding landscape/ countryside
  - (ii) the characteristics of the pattern of development in this part of the countryside
  - (iii) the requirements of the Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance, and
  - (iv) where applicable, relevant Material (planning) Considerations
- On 22 September 1992, consent for 'Change of use of agricultural land and outline planning permission to form Children's Farm' was granted, Planning Application Ref No P/92/0708. This was for the area shown in Fig 1
- In terms of planning policy, the Farm Park, along with Craig Tara, are in LDP2 Appendix B: Coastal Development – Intensively Developed. While LDP2 policy elsewhere confirms that encouragement will be given to improving existing significant tourist facilities, Appendix B refers to the likely sensitive nature of the landscape surrounding 'Intensively Developed'
- In this regard, most of the Farm Park buildings were traditional farm buildings pertaining to Laigh Kyleston and all have been relatively low. The only relatively significant new development in the interim has been the Nursery/Nursery Extension and, in terms of its scale, massing, etc., guidance was provided by the farm/former farm buildings to the east
- The current proposals similarly, therefore, are being guided substantially by the predominance of low-lying structures

Like any development, the proposals have been influenced to a degree by the topography of the site. The aim has been to

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minimise the visual impact from the main road and approaches both west and east. The low in the landscape single-storey approach to the development within the Farm Park elsewhere has been maintained.

- Although not entirely traditional in concept, the Council's Rural Housing policy allows for more contemporary solutions as long as the principles of good design have been adhered to, as has been the case, in our opinion, here

The overall aesthetic is therefore single storey, low-pitched roofs, broken roofscape to break up massing and a rural palette of materials, but expressed in a more modern manner, for example timber cladding with feature stone panels, slate roofing but with some feature grey zinc roofing to some areas and larger window openings to living areas to respond to the orientation and views.

**(d) Choice of Location**

- Scrutiny of the area within the boundary shown in Fig 2 confirmed the absence of suitable alternative locations that could satisfactorily accommodate the dual requirements of the House and Animal Isolation Unit

Two of the underlying locational requirements have been that, because of the 24/7 operational needs of the Isolation Unit, a new building would need to be close to the Manager's House.

At the same time, the Isolation Unit required to be – as the name suggests – isolated.

Fig 2 confirms that the vast bulk of the defined area of the Farm Park shown in Fig 1 is in operational use, the exception being a

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relatively small area within the extreme north-west corner. Satisfying, as it does, the precise locational requirements, it was concluded that this is where the proposals would be located.

# **APPENDIX**

to accompany:

**PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT (PDAS)  
IN SUPPORT OF PLANNING APPLICATION FOR  
THE ERECTION OF A MANAGER'S HOUSE AND  
REPLACEMENT ANIMAL ISOLATION UNIT  
ON LAND WITHIN HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
DUNURE ROAD, AYR, KA7 4LD**

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF  
CRAIG AND EDNA RANKIN,  
HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK,  
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Prepared by:

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**February 2024**

**Appendix to Accompany Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) in Support of Planning Application for the Erection of a Manager's House and Replacement Animal Isolation Unit on Land within Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD**

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

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- ***Planning Application Drawing Nos SL001 – SL003 and P001 – P002***
- ***The Proposals – Early Concept Drawings***



Received 10 June 2004; accepted 10 June 2004

**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**

Site plan of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) showing the proposed location of the new building. The plan includes the existing building footprint, parking lots, and surrounding landscape features like trees and topography. A red line indicates the proposed building footprint.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100									
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**Planning Application Drawing No SL003: Proposed Site Plan – Scale 1:1000**

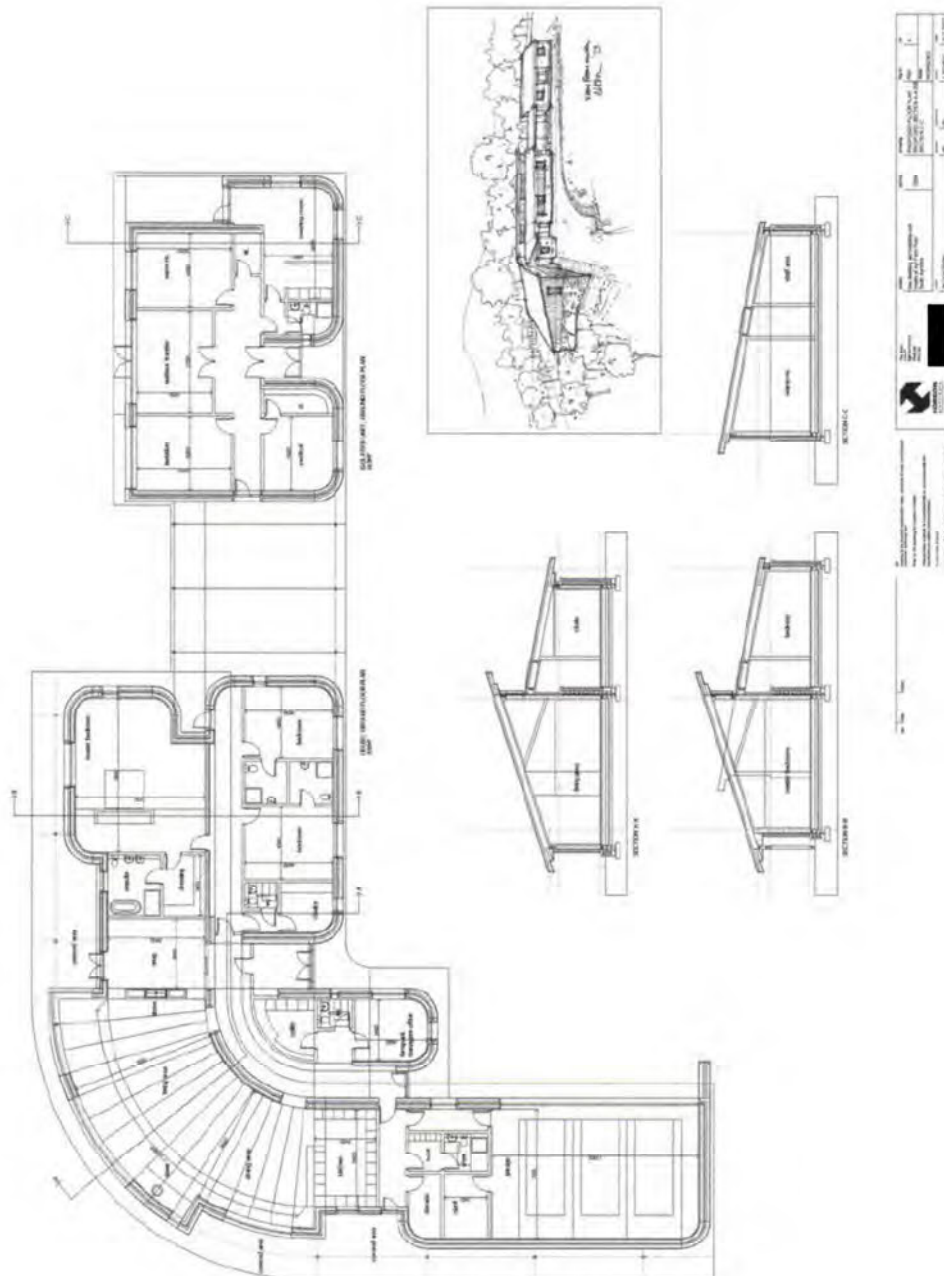


 Hobson Planning 111 Dundas Street West Toronto, Ontario M5G 1L1 Tel: 416-593-8888 Fax: 416-593-8889 Email: info@hobsonplanning.com		project development options at Heads of Ayr Farm Park South Ayrshire	job no 2204	drawing PROCP SITE PLAN	dsg no SL003	rev A
client Mr Craig Rankin		drawn jrh	checked jrh	scale 1:1000 @ A3	date Feb 2022	status PROPOSED

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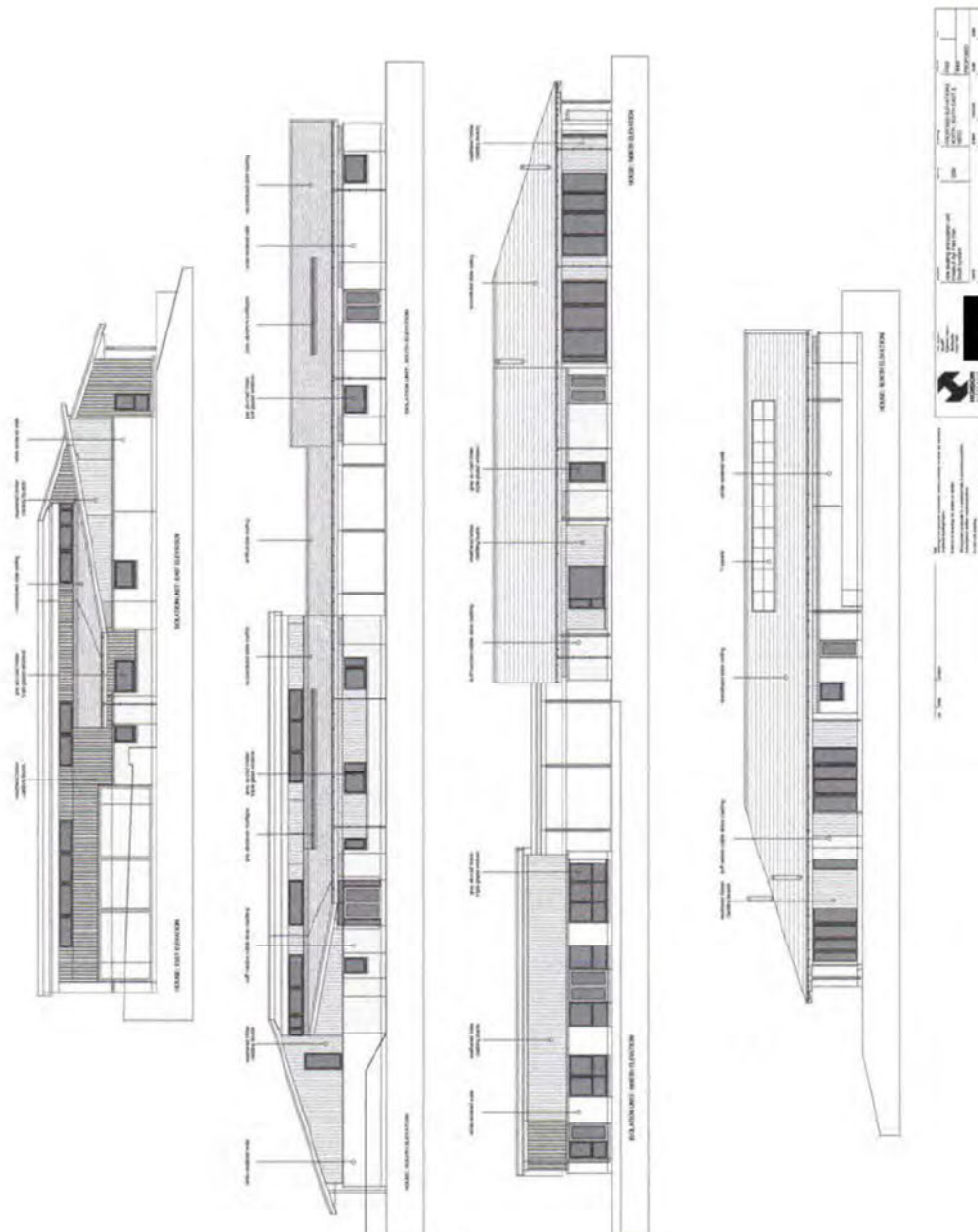
**Planning Application Drawing No P001: Proposed Floor Plan and Sections**



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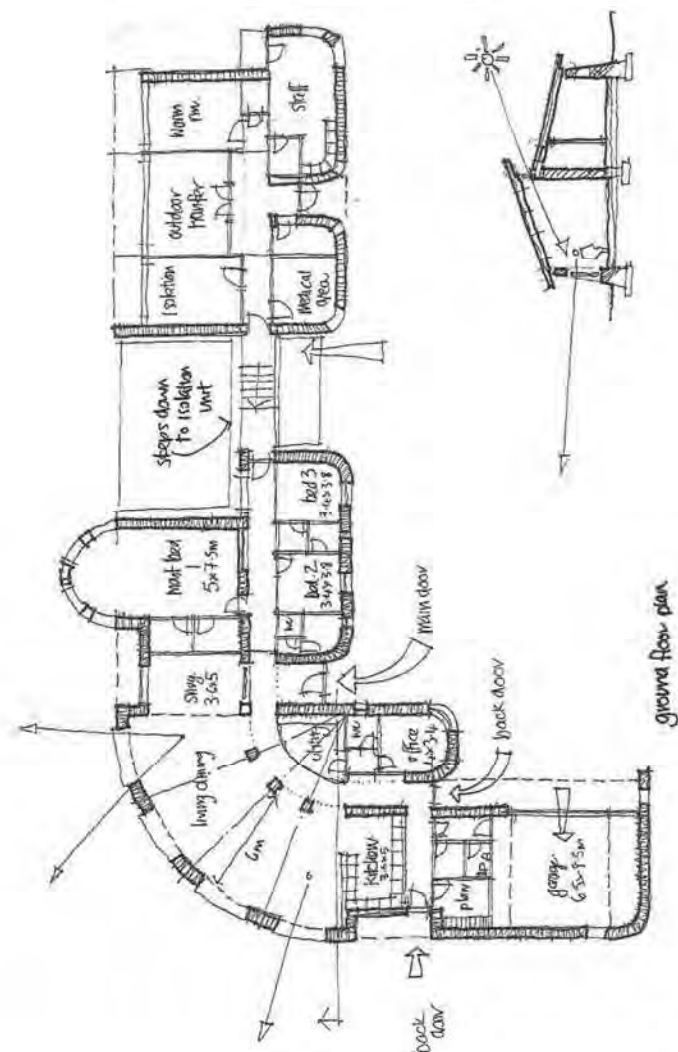
**Planning Application Drawing No P002: Proposed Elevations**



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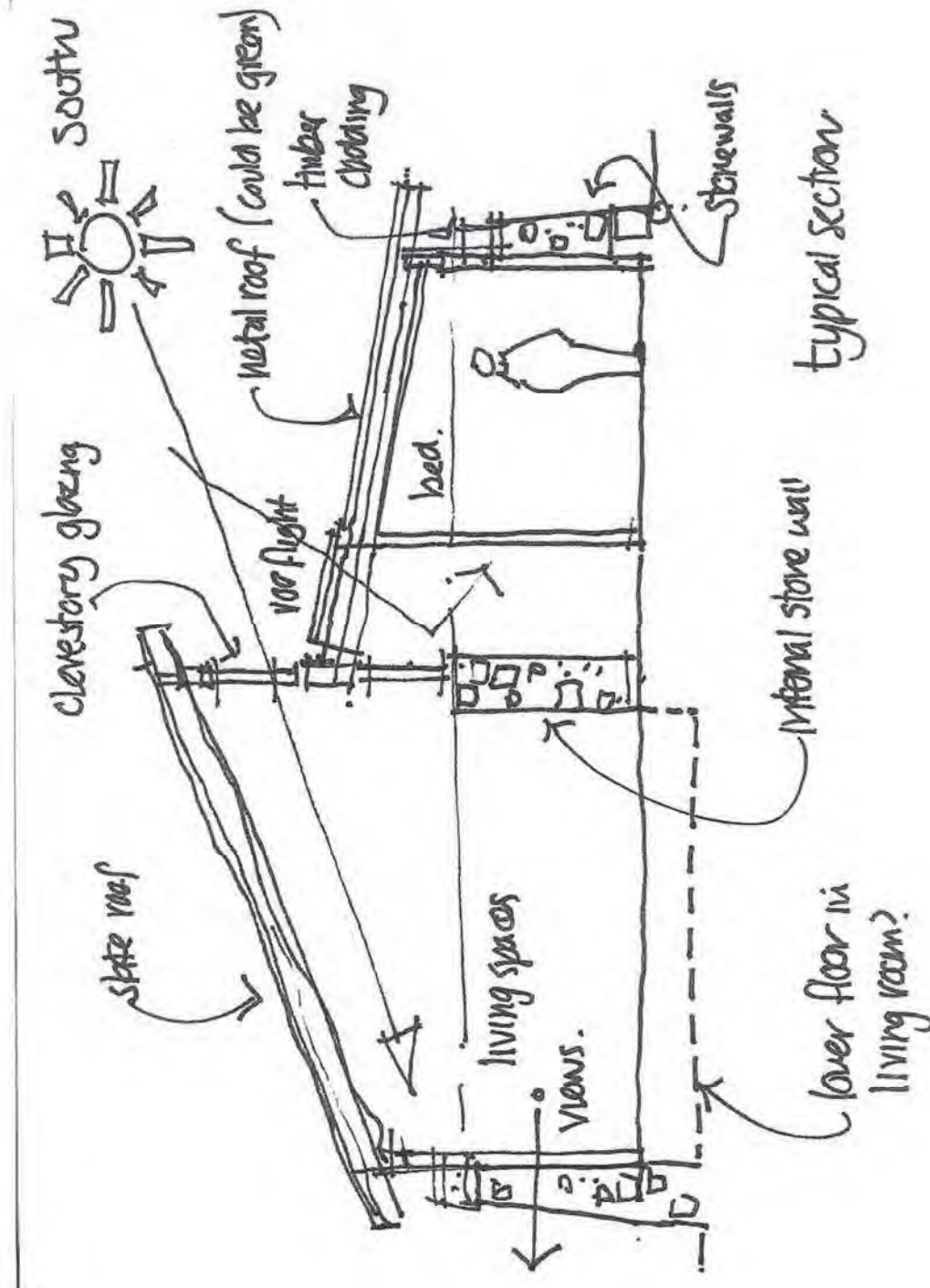
Early Concept Sketches





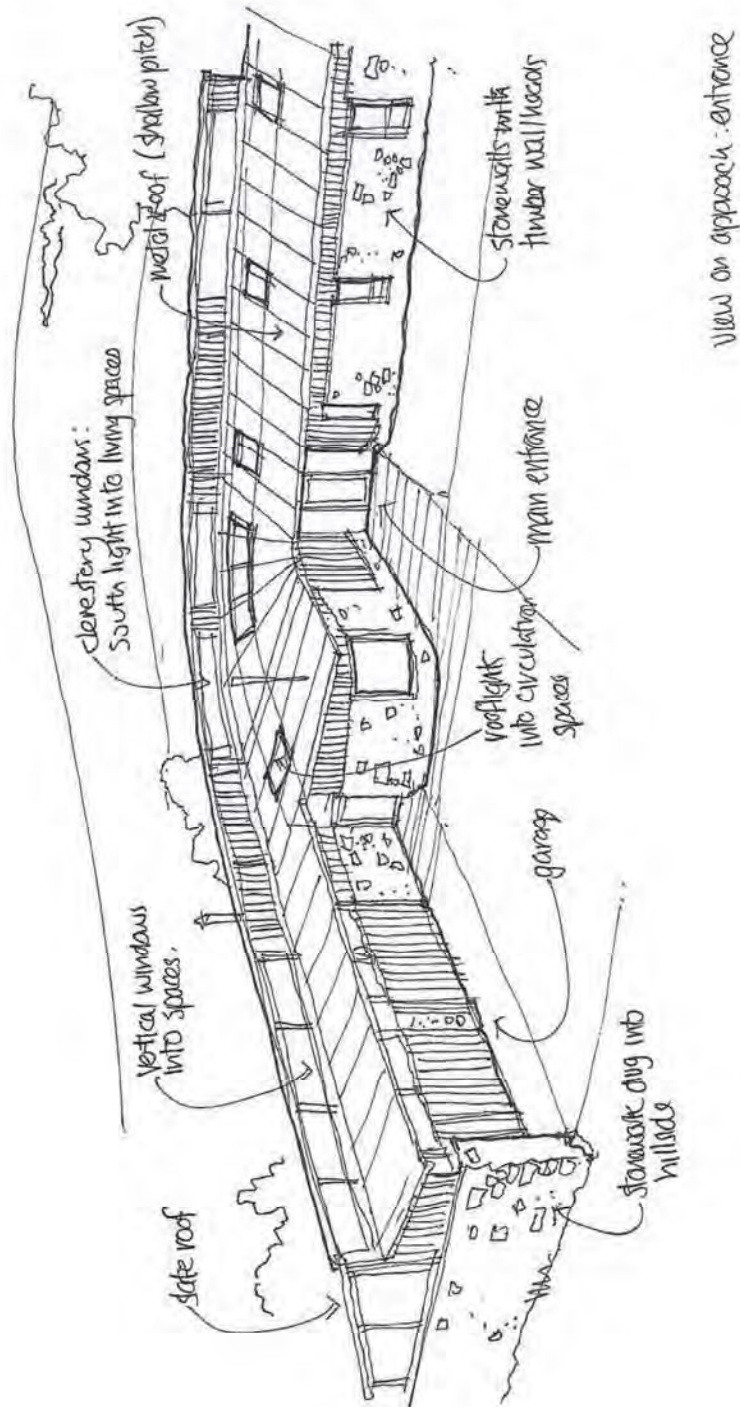
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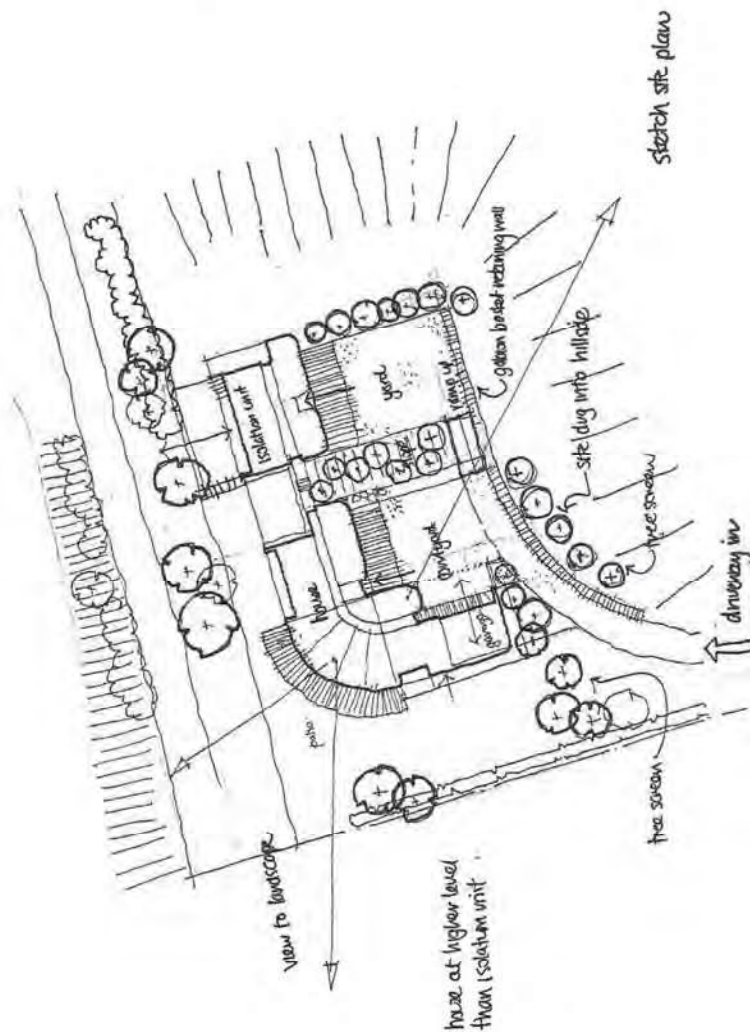
**Prepared for: Craig and Edna Rankin**





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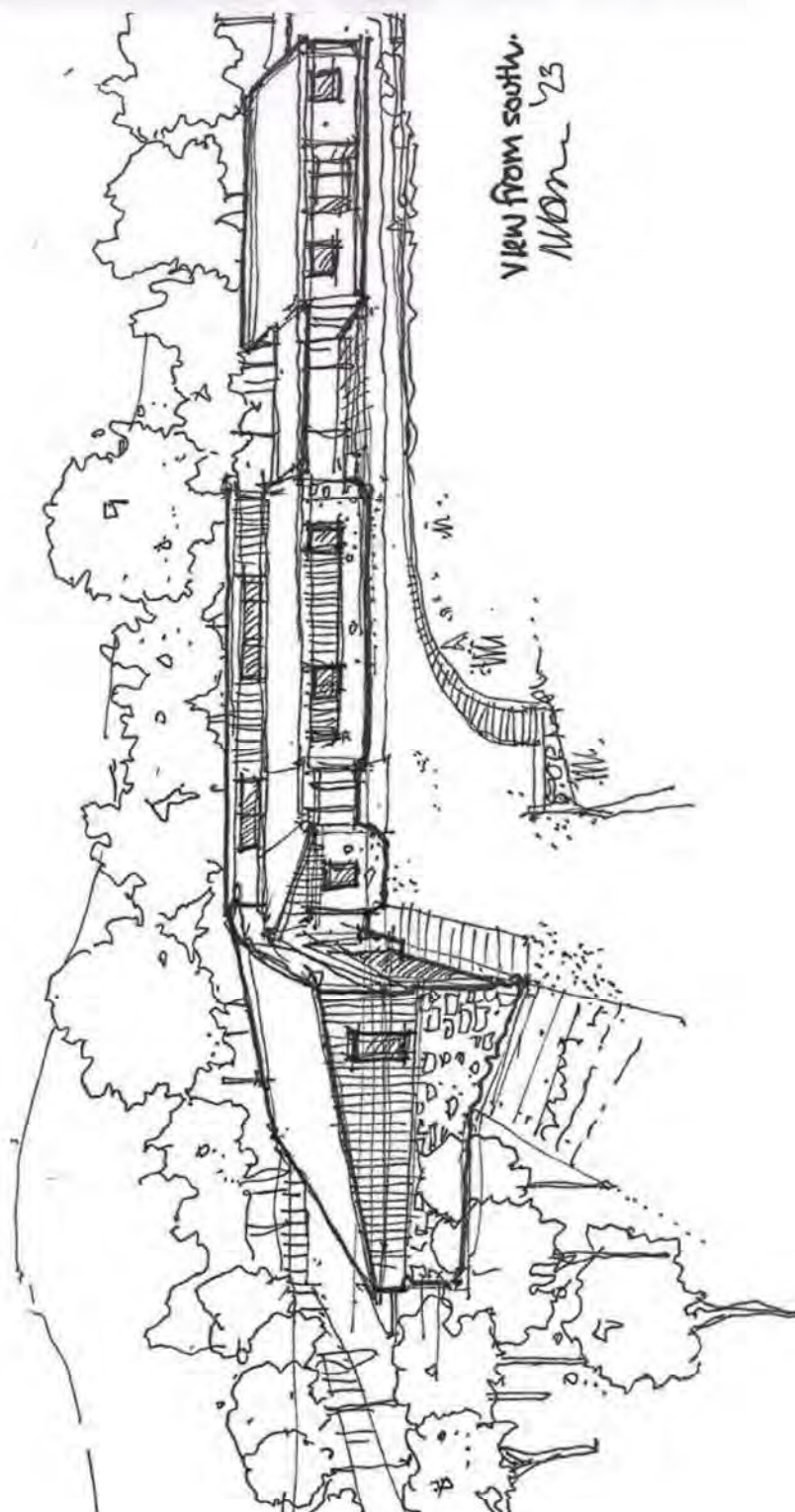
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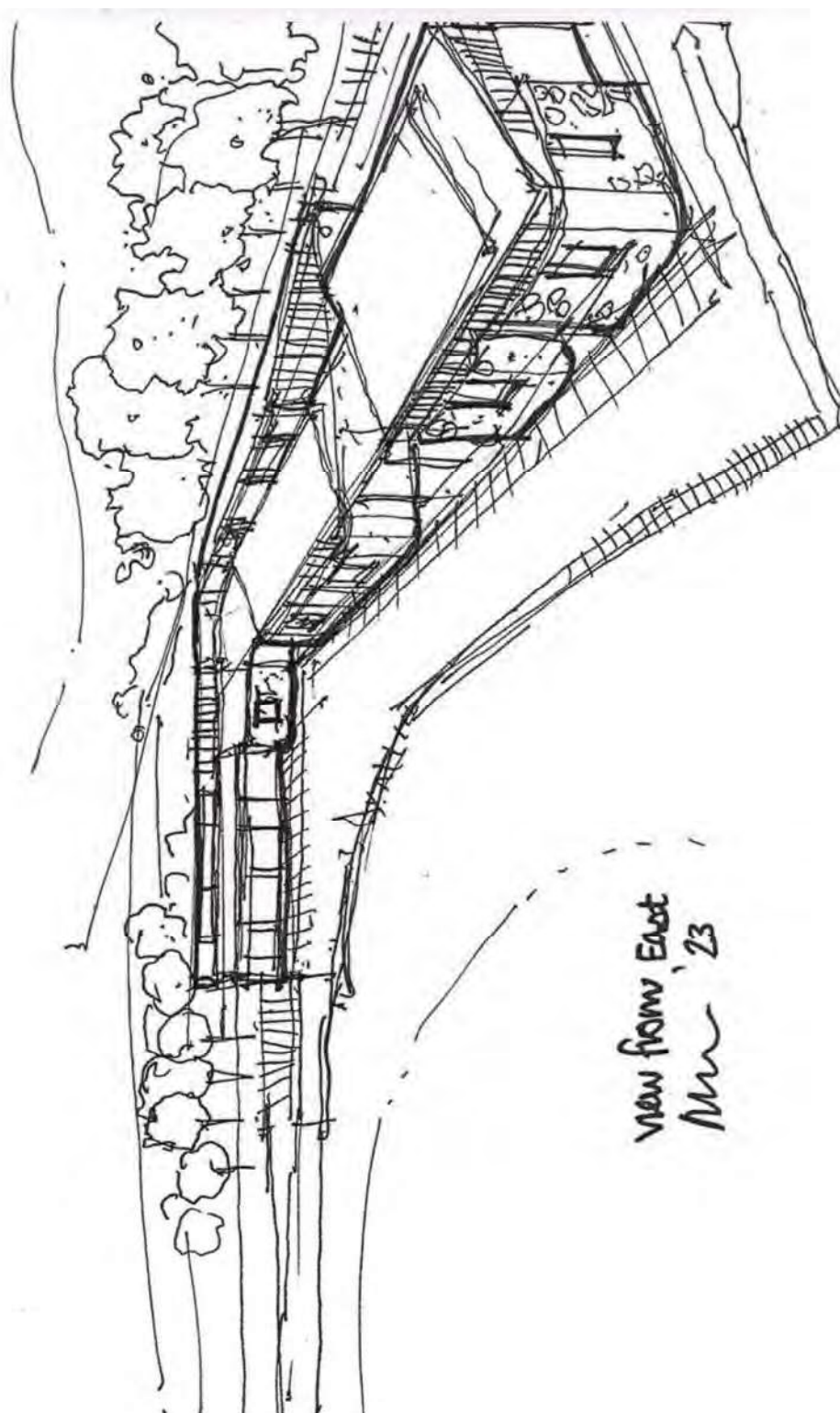
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# Heads of Ayr



Ecology Survey

October 2023

**jke**ecology





**[www.jkecology.co.uk](http://www.jkecology.co.uk)**

**Directors**

Gus Keys



Rebecca Johnson



JK Ecology Ltd, company number SC560862, VAT number 265 9621 71

Registered office 22 North Dumgoyne Avenue, Milngavie G62 7JT.

This report is intended for the sole use of Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd. No responsibility can be assumed by the author for any third party's actions arising through their interpretation of the document. Any third parties relying on this document therefore do so entirely at their own risk.

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# 1 Introduction

JK Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Heads of Ayr Farm Park Ltd. (the 'Client') to undertake an ecology survey of land at Laigh Kyleston Farm, Heads of Ayr, South Ayrshire. The site (hereafter the 'Proposed Development') is located on agricultural land adjacent to Heads of Ayr Farm Park, west of Doonfoot (central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference of NS 29405 18096).

A planning application for the erection of a dwelling house and replacement animal isolation unit at the farm was submitted (23/00527/APP: *Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit at Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road Ayr to Ayr Road Fisherton, KA7 4LD*) and an ecological review the planning application was undertaken in August 2023 by AECOM at the request of South Ayrshire Council (*Ecological Review of 23/00527/APP: Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit at Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road Ayr to Ayr Road Fisherton, KA7 4LD*).

The Proposed Development is comprised of grazed agricultural grassland surrounded by improved agricultural land on all sides.

## 1.1 Background

The Proposed Development will seek to develop a dwelling house and animal isolation unit at Heads of Ayr Farm. Site plans are presented in Appendix A. No previous ecological reports are known at the time of completing this report.

## 1.2 Scope of report

This ecological survey and has been undertaken following recommendations received from AECOM following their review of the planning application on behalf of South Ayrshire Council dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023. This states that:

*'An ecological survey of the site of the Proposed Development and surrounding area should be carried out to confirm the presence or likely absence of protected or notable habitats and species. If protected / notable ecological features are identified which could be subject to adverse effects from the Proposed Development, appropriate mitigation should be provided. The results of this work should be reported to South Ayrshire Council in a suitable report'.*

## 1.3 Relevant legislation and policy

The report has been compiled with reference to the following relevant nature conservation legislation.

- ☑ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended);
- ☑ The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA);
- ☑ The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
- ☑ Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;
- ☑ Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011;
- ☑ Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002;
- ☑ Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL);
- ☑ 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (Scottish Government, 2013); and
- ☑ Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2008.



## **2 Methods**

### **2.1 Overview**

This report has been prepared following current good practice guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017).

The ecological survey encompassed the footprint of the Proposed Development and surrounding area including:

- 📍 tree and scrub habitat north of the Proposed Development; and
- 📍 improved grassland and arable fields surrounding the Proposed Development to the north, east and west.

The survey was undertaken by Ecologist Gus Keys (MCIEEM) of JK Ecology Ltd on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The area was assessed for signs of ecological constraints, such as potential nesting bird habitat, Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), high value trees, potential bat roost features, and signs of protected mammals such as badger and red squirrel.

### **2.2 Desk study**

Although a desk study was undertaken by AECOM as part of their ecological review, a brief desk study was also carried out by JK Ecology to inform the survey, using freely available maps and data sources, including the following:

- 📍 NatureScot's SiteLink online mapping portal was used to search for nature conservation sites in the area;
- 📍 The South Ayrshire Council website was searched for information relating to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and other designated sites in the area; and
- 📍 The Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland was checked for the presence of designated Ancient Woodland in the area.

### **2.3 Limitations**

Ecological surveys are limited by a variety of factors which affect the presence of fauna such as season, climate, migration patterns and species behaviour. Even though evidence of a species is not always discovered during the survey, this does not mean that such a species is not present.

The survey met the following constraints:

- 📍 The survey was undertaken outwith the optimal period for vegetation growth which restricted the identification of some species; and
- 📍 The assessment of trees for their suitability for roosting bats was a ground-level tree assessment – no at-height inspections were undertaken.

## **3 Results**

### **3.1 Desk study**

#### **3.1.1 Designated sites**

The previous ecological review of the planning application undertaken by AECOM identified designated sites within the local area. Maidens to Doonfoot Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies approximately 250m north of the Proposed Development. The SSSI is also designated as Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks / Dunure to Drumblane Burn Local Wildlife Site (LWS) by South Ayrshire Council.

There is a limited connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SSSI, with the only connecting features being scattered scrub and a broken line of mature trees.

#### **3.1.2 Ancient woodland**

An area of designated Ancient Woodland, of semi-natural origin, is situated several kilometres west of the farm, but this has no connectivity with the Proposed Development.

#### **3.1.3 Tree Preservation Orders**

The closest TPOs are located on the edge of Alloway approximately 2km east of the farm. There are no TPO trees within in the area immediately surrounding the Proposed Development.

### **3.1 Survey results**

Photos and target notes referenced below can be found in Appendices B and C respectively.

#### **3.2.1 Habitats**

The main habitat type on the Proposed Development is improved grassland of low species diversity (Photo 1, TN1). The sward is short and well-grazed by livestock, making identification of grass species was more difficult, but the flora appears to consist largely of common agricultural species. Vascular plants present include meadow buttercup and ribwort plantain.

Arable and improved grassland fields surround the Proposed Development on all sides, with livestock present in several of them at the time of survey (Photos 2 and 3). Improved pasture to the north and east showed a similar species make-up and diversity to that present within the Proposed Development.

A line of mature and semi-mature trees and scrub is present immediately north of the Proposed Development along the line of a disused railway embankment (Photo 4, TN2). This links to areas of woodland and scrub present to the east along the disused railway line. Although this was described as "*mature woodland*" within AECOM's ecological review, this was found to be a treeline with heavily grazed pasture below, offering no understory or woodland structure, limiting its biodiversity value. Ash and hawthorn are the two dominant species present, and the majority of the ash trees inspected during the survey showed signs of ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), a fungus which is projected to kill up to 80% of ash trees in the UK. The ground flora along the railway line consists of a short grassy sward, with regular patches of nettles.

Scattered scrub and a line of beech trees are present along part of the fenceline running north from the Proposed Development, but these are not directly connected to it (Photo 5, TN3).

The adjacent Heads of Ayr Farm Park which is situated to the east of the Proposed Development consists of a mix of amenity and improved grassland as well as scattered trees.

### **3.2.2 Protected and notable species**

#### **Bats**

A total of nine ash trees along part of the disused railway immediately north of the Proposed Development have potential bat roost features present within them, such as holes, cracks and other cavities (Photos 6-14, TNs 4-12). All features identified were of a size and extent that they are likely to only be used opportunistically by small numbers or individual bats in the 'active season' (April to September inclusive).

A diseased, almost dead ash tree with potential bat roost features is situated approximately 3m from the northern boundary of the Proposed Development and approximately 10m from the closest area of any construction works (TN12). A semi-mature ash with potential roost features was located approximately 5m from the Proposed Development fence line, but more than 10m from the closest area of any construction works (TN11). The remaining seven trees with potential roost features are located approximately 20-30m from the Proposed Development boundary.

Bats require suitable habitats to commute to and from their roost sites and foraging areas, often following linear features in the landscape such as lines of trees, hedgerows or stone walls. Trees and scrub along the disused railway offer a potential commuting and foraging route to more valuable habitats such as woodland to the east of the Proposed Development, and a discontinuous route is present along scattered scrub and a broken line of mature trees to woodland to the north and northeast, mostly within Maiden and Doonfoot SSSI.

#### **Protected mammals**

No signs of protected mammals such as badger were found during the survey. The surrounding habitat looks suitable for badger, particularly in larger areas of woodland to the east and north of the Proposed Development, and suitable foraging habitat is present in fields surrounding the site.

Digging signs and numerous burrows were present along the northern edge of the disused railway embankment, but these were identified as rabbit burrows (Photo 15, TN13).

#### **Amphibians and reptiles**

The habitat present within the Proposed Development and surrounding land is mostly unsuitable for reptile and amphibian species, being either arable land or grazed by livestock.

#### **Birds**

No bird species were observed using the land within the Proposed Development. The only notable species recorded during the survey were starling and mistle thrush, both Red-listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BOCC), which were recorded flying over and feeding in the arable field immediately to the west. Several other common species, often associated with farmland habitats were recorded in fields, trees and scrub adjacent to the Proposed Development including brambling, goldfinch, chaffinch, robin and black-headed gull.

The land within the Proposed Development is unlikely to offer any suitable habitat for nesting birds but trees and scrub immediately to the north and northeast offer nesting opportunities to a range of common farmland species as well as red-listed species such as starling. While not seen during the survey, there is the potential for yellowhammer and linnet (both Red-listed BOCC) to nest in scrub habitat present along the disused railway line to the east.

#### **Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)**

No INNS were recorded during the survey.

## **4 Discussion and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Designated sites**

The Proposed Development does not overlap with any statutory or non-statutory designated sites.

#### **4.2.1 Statutory designated sites**

The desk study identified one designated site of national importance approximately 250m from the Proposed Development. Maidens to Doonfoot SSSI is designated for its maritime cliff, shingle and upland mixed ash woodland habitats, and its invertebrate assemblage. A broken line of trees and scattered scrub are present along a fence line running north from the western boundary of the Proposed Development, providing a very limited connection to the SSSI. Given this weak linkage, the SSSI is very unlikely to be impacted by the Proposed Development.

#### **4.2.2 Non-statutory designated sites**

The desk study identified a non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest within 250m of the farm. Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks / Dunure to Drumblane Burn LWS overlaps the Maidens to Doonfoot SSSI boundary and there is a limited connection between the Proposed Development and LWS, as described above. However, the LWS is very unlikely to be impacted by the Proposed Development.

### **4.3 Habitats**

There are no notable or priority habitats present within or around the Proposed Development and are therefore do not pose a constraint.

Areas of improved grassland and arable surrounding the Proposed Development are likely to provide only limited value for biodiversity. Adjacent areas of trees and scrub are likely to offer nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, invertebrates and potentially, roosting and foraging bats.

### **4.4 Protected and notable species**

#### **4.4.1 Bats**

The Proposed Development offers limited habitat for foraging bats, although there are adjacent linear features leading to more valuable woodland habitats in the wider area. A total of nine mature and semi-mature ash along the disused railway north of the Proposed Development were identified as having potential roost features present which could support individual bats or small numbers of bats in the active season. None of the mature hawthorn along the disused railway line had any potential roost features present. There are no trees located within the Site and there is no risk of potential bats roost being destroyed by the Proposed Development.

However, due to the level of grazing by livestock along the disused railway line, and the presence of improved agricultural fields surrounding the Site, the line of trees and scrub immediately north of the Proposed Development are likely to be sub-optimal to roosting and foraging bats.

Noise disturbance in relation to bat roosts adjacent to construction works is difficult to quantify. Noise is generally airborne in nature and, depending on frequency and duration, can cause

disturbance to roosting bats. In addition, noise associated with house building is not likely to be of a constant nature or frequency and are likely to reduce over time as construction works progress. This is likely to be the case where works are internal, rather than external, providing an element of soundproofing between the works and any potential bat roosts.

Seven of the trees identified as having potential roost features present are located approximately 20-30m from where construction phase works from the Proposed Development would take place (TN4-TN10), and therefore at low risk of disturbance.

The remaining two trees with potential roost features sit closer to the boundary of the Proposed Development; a diseased, mature ash is located close to the boundary fence, approximately 10m from the Proposed Development (TN12), and a semi-mature ash sits approximately 15m from the Proposed Development (TN11). While any bats utilising either of these trees for roosting would be closer to construction works associated to the Proposed Development, it is unlikely that any potential bat roosts would be at a significant level of disturbance.

There is a risk that the diseased ash tree (TN12) could suffer from further limbs falling from the tree, or even failure of the whole tree given its current condition. From a health and safety perspective (particularly if the Proposed Development is granted planning approval) the Client reports that it may be necessary to fell the tree. An alternative option would be to monolith the tree - removing the branches and main limbs to leave the trunk in situ as standing deadwood and at a reduced risk of falling. Felling has the potential to result in the destruction of a bat roost and therefore a pre-felling endoscope check by a licenced bat specialist is required prior to works to confirm the absence of roosting bats or their signs. Any works to monolith the tree would retain the features with bat roost potential if occupied during the 'active season' only. Monolithing could proceed without the pre-felling endoscope check mentioned above, provided it was carried out over the winter months when the feature is unlikely to be occupied. If the tree is monolithed during the 'active season' then a pre-felling check is recommended to ensure that no bats are present.

Artificial illumination can have an impact on nearby habitats used by bats for roosting, foraging, and commuting. Poorly installed lighting can discourage bats from leaving their roosts; affect their feeding behaviour when foraging; increase their risk of predation by avian predators; and create barriers to commuting through the landscape.

Artificial lighting both during, and particularly post-construction, should be carefully designed to ensure that light spill does not illuminate nearby habitats used by bats, such as the line of trees and scrub along the disused railway line.

Bats are considered a low risk constraint to the Proposed Development, if appropriate mitigation measures with regards to potential inspection surveys, noise and lighting are implemented.

#### 4.4.2 Badger

No badger signs were recorded during the survey and this species is not considered a constraint to the Proposed Development. The habitat within the Proposed Development and the surrounding land is broadly suitable for badgers and this species could forage on the farm. Good practice mitigation measures should therefore be implemented during construction to protect any badgers which might move through the area.

#### 4.4.3 Breeding birds

Two notable Red-listed BOCC, starling and mistle thrush, were observed on land adjacent to the Proposed Development, but no suitable breeding habitat is present within the field itself.

Given its size, current land use and the uniformity of habitats within it, it is unlikely that the Proposed Development area supports any breeding bird populations. It is unlikely the loss of habitat caused by the Proposed Development would significantly impact the populations of the species listed above, and therefore their conservation status.

Breeding birds are therefore not considered to pose a constraint to the Proposed Development, though if the mature ash tree suffering from die-back discussed in Section 4.4.1 above (TN12) is felled or monolithed during the bird breeding season (March to September inclusive), the tree surgeons must ensure that no active nests are present.

#### 4.4.4 Amphibians and reptiles

No amphibians or reptiles were recorded during the survey and the habitat within the Proposed Development is unsuitable for these species, therefore they do not pose a constraint.

#### 4.4.5 Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

No INNS were recorded during the survey, and they are not considered a constraint to the Proposed Development.

### 4.5 **Summary of recommended mitigation measures**

The following mitigation measures are recommended to minimise any potential impacts on species and habitats as a result of the Proposed Development.

#### 4.5.1 Bat survey inspection

A potential roost feature (PRF) inspection survey of the diseased ash (TN12) is recommended to determine the presence or absence of roosting bats prior felling or monolithing during the bat active season. If monolithing retains the trunk which contains the PRF, this can be carried out without a pre-start check during the winter months.




Any inspection survey should be undertaken by a licensed bat worker, who may recommend further mitigation measures depending on the results of the survey.

The remaining trees with PRF's immediately to the north are sufficiently far away from the Proposed Development that noise and disturbance from construction works are unlikely to cause significant disturbance to roosting bats.

#### 4.5.2 Bat mitigation measures

The following mitigation measures are recommended in relation to bats during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, and also post-construction.

#### **Lighting**

-  Maintain an appropriately sized buffer between the house and treeline, as per the site plans provided;
-  Only install external lighting where necessary;
-  Avoid any light spill onto the trees along the disused railway;



- ☑ Use LED lights where possible, which produce less intense light and are dimmable;
- ☑ Avoid lights with ultra-violet elements, as these tend to attract night-flying insects;
- ☑ Restrict timings of external light settings when possible, e.g. avoiding dusk;
- ☑ Avoid installing lighting at height if possible, with low-level lighting preferable; and
- ☑ Where appropriate, lights should have lighting hoods and cowls to avoid light spillage.

## Noise

Avoid construction works around / after dusk and before dawn.

These measures should be written into RAMS and communicated to construction operatives through a pre-start toolbox talk.

### 4.5.3 Protected mammal mitigation measures

The following mitigation measures are recommended in relation to protected mammals, such as badger, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. While evidence of badger was not recorded during the survey, the farmland and woodland habitats within the wider area are generally suitable for this species, and therefore best practice regarding protected mammals should be followed during construction works:

- ☑ Cover any excavations left overnight or, where deep excavations occur, install a mammal ladder to allow any trapped animal a means of escape;
- ☑ Cap any open pipes overnight to prevent possible entry by protected mammals;
- ☑ Construction and residential lighting should be directed away from areas of woodland; and
- ☑ Where appropriate, lights should have lighting hoods and cowls to avoid light spillage.

These measures should be written into RAMS and communicated to construction operatives through a pre-start toolbox talk.

## 5 References

- ☑ Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S.H. (2000). Bird Census Techniques, Second Edition. Academic Press, London
- ☑ BSI (2012). BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. BSI, London.
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- ☑ CIRIA (2015). Environmental good practice on site (fourth edition) (C741) Charles, P., Edwards, P (eds). CIRIA, London.
- ☑ Collins J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- ☑ ILP (2023). Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. ILP, Rugby.
- ☑ Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.
- ☑ Scottish Badgers (2018). Surveying for Badgers Good Practice Guidelines [online]. Available at: [https://www.scottishbadgers.org.uk/userfiles/file/planning\\_guidelines/Surveying-for-Badgers-Good-Practice-Guidelines\\_V1.pdf](https://www.scottishbadgers.org.uk/userfiles/file/planning_guidelines/Surveying-for-Badgers-Good-Practice-Guidelines_V1.pdf)
- ☑ Stace C. A. (2019). New Flora of the British Isles. Fourth Edition. C&M Floristics, Suffolk.



## Appendix B: Photographs

	<p>Photo 1: Improved grassland habitat within the Proposed Development (TN1).</p>
	<p>Photo 2: Looking south along western site boundary. Arable field immediately west of the Proposed Development.</p>





Photo 3:  
Improved grassland field north  
of the Proposed Development.



Photo 4:  
Line of mature and semi-mature  
trees and scrub along the  
disused railway line north of the  
Proposed Development (TN2).



Photo 5:  
Line of mature beech and  
scattered hawthorn scrub along  
part of fence line running north  
to the edge of Maidens to  
Doonfoot SSSI (TN3).



Photo 6:  
Coppiced ash with potential bat roost features, along northern edge of disused railway embankment (TN4).

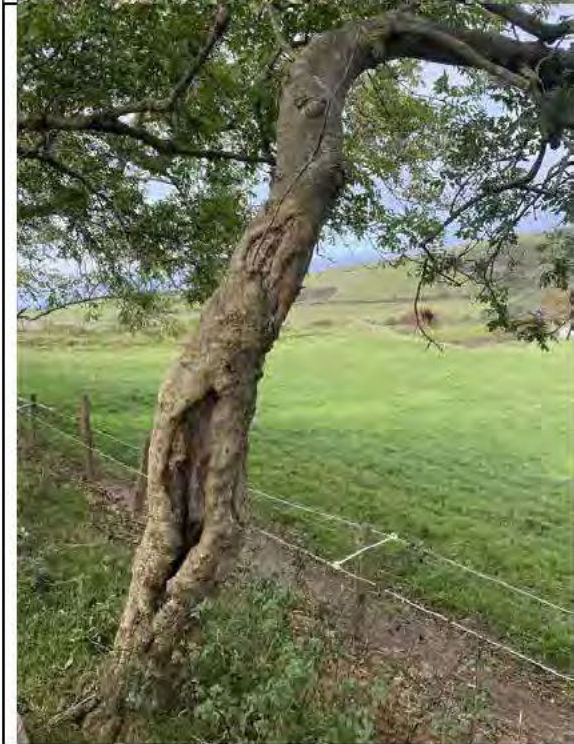


Photo 7:  
Semi-mature ash with potential roost feature, on northern edge of disused railway embankment (TN5).





Photo 8:  
Mature coppiced ash with  
potential roost features, on  
northern edge of disused railway  
embankment (TN6).



Photo 9:  
Mature ash along northern  
boundary of disused railway,  
with potential roost feature  
present on main trunk (TN7).





Photo 10:  
Semi-mature ash with potential roost feature, on northern edge of disused railway embankment (TN8).



Photo 11:  
Mature ash with several potential roost features, northern edge of disused railway embankment (TN9).

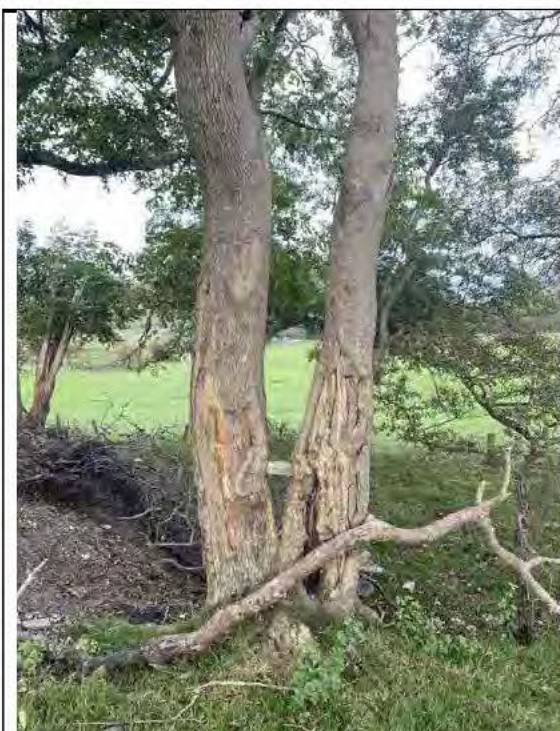


Photo 12:  
Mature ash with potential roost feature (TN10)



Photo 13:  
Semi-mature ash with potential roost features, southern side of disused railway, approximately 5m from Proposed Development boundary fence (TN11).





Photo 14:  
Mostly dead, mature ash with potential roost features on southern side of disused railway, approximately 3m from Proposed Development boundary fence (TN12).



Photo 15:  
One of several rabbit burrows along northern boundary of disused railway (TN13).

## Appendix C: Target notes

TN No.	Grid reference	Description
01	NS 29373 18088	Improved grassland within Proposed Development boundary.
02	NS 29393 18135	Mature and semi-mature ash and hawthorn on disused railway line immediately north of Proposed Development.
03	NS 29298 18313	Line of mature beech trees and scattered hawthorn along fence line between Site and Maidens to Doonfoot SSSI.
04	NS 29381 18134	Coppiced ash with PRF's – cankers and internal rot in both limbs.
05	NS 29383 18134	Semi-mature ash with PRF – internal rot in main trunk.
06	NS 29396 18135	Mature coppiced ash with single PRF – cavity leading to hollow limb.
07	NS 29404 18135	Mature ash with single PRF – cavity leading to partially hollow trunk.
08	NS 29404 18139	Semi-mature ash with PRF's – opening leading to partially hollow trunk.
09	NS 29441 18147	Mature ash with PRF's – numerous cankers and crevices on main limbs.
10	NS 29407 18128	Mature ash with PRF – large opening on lower trunk revealing internal rot.
11	NS 29407 18125	Semi-mature ash with PRF's – cankers and partially hollow limb.
12	NS 29393 18115	Mature, almost dead ash with PRF's – two knot holes on main trunk.
13	NS 29384 18139	Rabbit burrow along north edge of disused railway.









**South Ayrshire Council  
Planning Service**

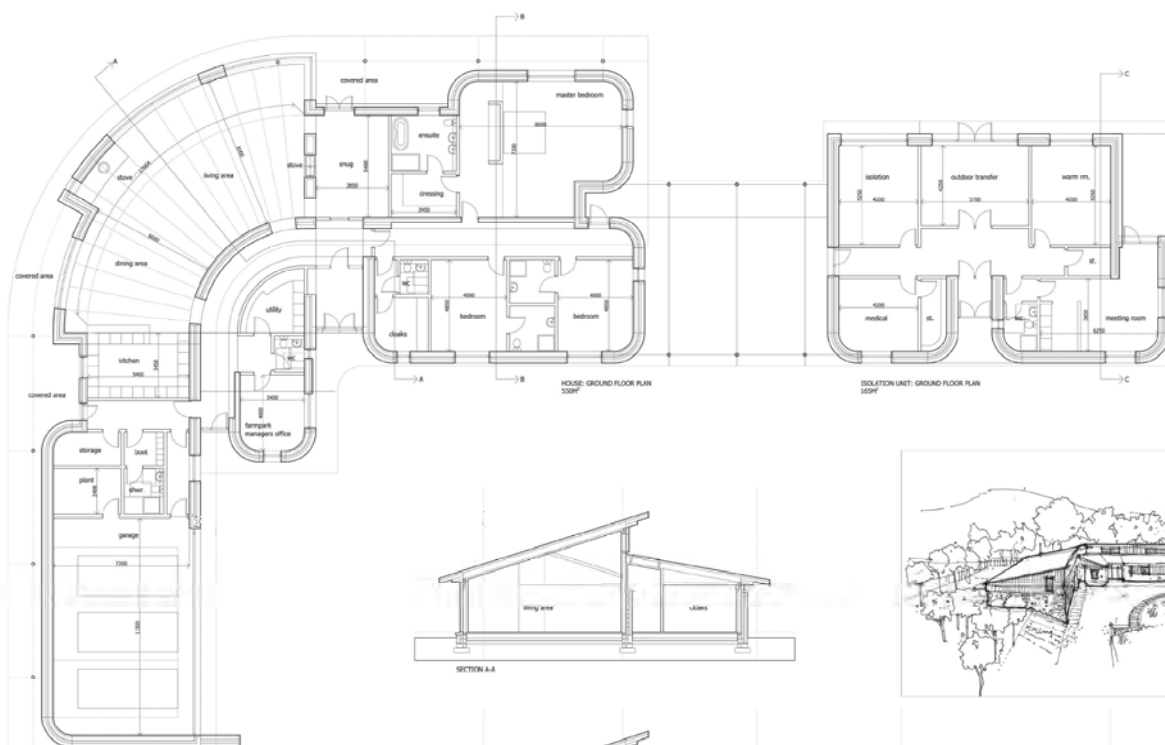
Refused under The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), subject to reasons that may be specified in the notification of this decision by South Ayrshire Council.

rev	date	notes
01	12/02/2022	Initial design
02	15/02/2022	Revised design
03	18/02/2022	Final design

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 <b>HOBSON</b> architects	The Studio: Soho Edinburgh, France Skotland PA17 5P	subject development options at Hoads of Ayr Farm Park South Ayrshire	job no 2204	drawing PROP SITE PLAN	drawing no		rev					
					SL003	A						
					status							
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										drawn	checked	scale
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										date		
										Feb 2022		

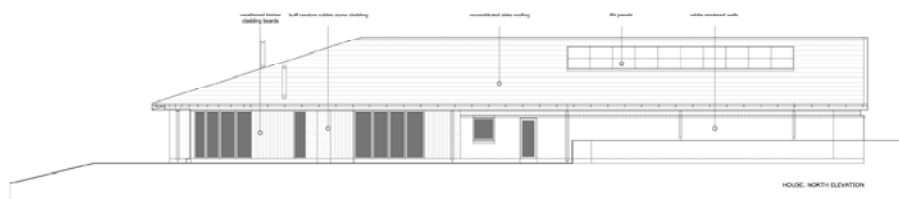
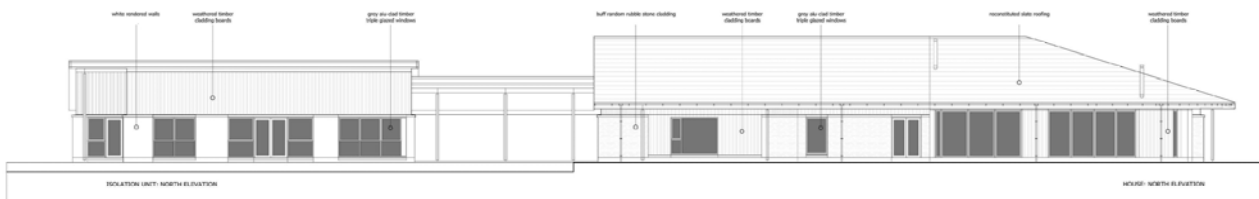
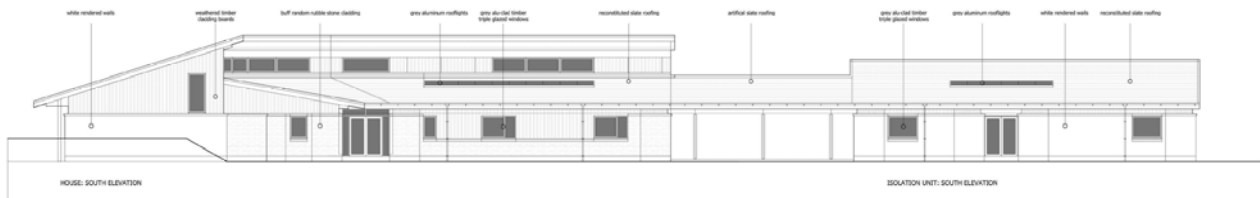




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<p>Project Name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Client: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Location: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Drawn by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Checked by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Approved by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Date: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Project Name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Client: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Location: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Drawn by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Checked by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Approved by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Date: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Project Name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Client: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Location: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Drawn by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Checked by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Approved by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Date: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Project Name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Client: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Location: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Drawn by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Checked by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Approved by: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Date: [REDACTED]</p>
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<p>1. Name of the applicant: [Name]</p> <p>2. Name of the project: [Name]</p> <p>3. Address of the site: [Address]</p> <p>4. Date of submission: [Date]</p>		<p>5. Name of the applicant: [Name]</p> <p>6. Name of the project: [Name]</p> <p>7. Address of the site: [Address]</p> <p>8. Date of submission: [Date]</p>	<p>9. Name of the applicant: [Name]</p> <p>10. Name of the project: [Name]</p> <p>11. Address of the site: [Address]</p> <p>12. Date of submission: [Date]</p>
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**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

**REFUSAL OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION  
(Delegated)**

**Ref No: 24/00127/APP**

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT) (SCOTLAND) ORDERS**

**To: Heads Of Ayr Farm Park (Scotland) Ltd  
per Hobson Architects  
Nicholas John Hobson  
Seacliff  
Eglinton Terrace  
Skelmorlie  
PA17 5EP**

With reference to your **Application for Planning Permission** dated **22nd February 2024**, under the aforementioned Regulations, for the following development, viz:-

**Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit**

**at: Laigh Kyleston Farm A719 From Dunure Road Ayr To Ayr Road Fisherton Ayr South  
Ayrshire KA7 4LD**

South Ayrshire Council in exercise of their powers under the aforementioned Regulations hereby **refuse** the Application for Planning Permission for the said development in accordance with the following reasons as relative hereto and the particulars given in the application. The refused drawings and other documents, where relevant, can be accessed from the [Council's website](#) by using the application reference number noted above these and represent the refused scheme.

**The reason(s) for the Council's decision are as follows:**

**NOTE:** Reasons will be numbered and prefixed with an 'R'

- (1R) That the development proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), specifically National Policy 14 Design, Quality and Place; National Policy 17 Rural Homes; South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP2) Core Principle B8, LDP policies Rural Housing and Landscape Quality; South Ayrshire Council's Rural Housing Guidance and the provisions of Scottish Planning Advice Note PAN 72 in relation to Housing in the Countryside, as the proposed dwellinghouse does not form or complement a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, is visually prominent and uncharacteristic to the detriment of the rural landscape setting at the locality and no robust justification having been provided for a departure from these policies.
- (2R) That the development proposal is contrary to the Adopted South Ayrshire Local Development Plan Rural Housing policy due to the proposed dwellinghouse and isolation facility not forming or complementing a coherent group of buildings so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and not being visually intrusive, and no justification having been provided for a departure from this policy.
- (3R) That the development proposal is contrary to the Planning Guidance in relation to Rural Housing due to not being sited so as to reinforce the existing operational base of the farmpark enterprise at Laigh Kyleston Farm, and due to not constituting development within an existing cluster or the sensitive infilling of an available gap site which consolidates existing properties within a cluster, and no justification having been provided for a departure from the Rural Housing planning guidance.

**List of Refused Plans:**

<b>Plan Type</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Received Date</b>
Drawing	P001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	P002		22.02.2024
Drawing	SL001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL002	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL003	rev A	22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Design & Access Statement		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Development Context		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Ecology Survey		22.02.2024

The explanation for reaching this view is set out in the Report of Handling and which forms a part of the Planning Register.

**Dated: 28th May 2024**

.....  
**Craig Iles**  
**Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards**

**PLANNING SERVICE, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON SQUARE, AYR, KA7 1DR**

**From:** Marshall, Tony [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:27 AM  
**To:** Sharp, Fiona [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** McBride, Sara [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: South Ayrshire Council Planning Consultation - 24/00127/APP

 External email >

Dear Fiona,

I hope you had a very nice weekend.

Please find attached letter setting out our review of the above application. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards,

Tony

Tony Marshall CEcol MCIEEM



AECOM  
1 Tanfield  
Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
[aecom.com](https://aecom.com)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 10:25 AM  
**To:** Marshall, Tony [REDACTED]; Boston, Emma [REDACTED];  
Dunne, Susanne [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** South Ayrshire Council Planning Consultation - 24/00127/APP

Please find consultation request attached.

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08 April 2024

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Supervisory Planner  
South Ayrshire Council  
County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
Ayr  
KA7 1DR**Ecological review of 24/00127/APP – Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit at Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 From Dunure Road Ayr to Ayr Road Fisherton, KA7 4LD.**

Dear Fiona,

On 08 March 2024, South Ayrshire Council requested that AECOM conduct an ecological review of the above planning application. The proposed 'Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit' is referred to hereafter in this letter as the 'Proposed Development'.

The Proposed Development is on the site of an application previously submitted but now withdrawn (application reference 23/00527/APP), and this application was originally reviewed by AECOM as described in a letter dated 02 August 2023.

As now withdrawn, the documents relating to 23/00527/APP are no longer available to view on the planning portal. However, it seems applications 24/00127/APP and 23/00527/APP are very similar and therefore the previous AECOM review and the recommendations made are still relevant. Those AECOM recommendations are also specifically referred to in the new application documentation for the Proposed Development.

Given the above, and for clarity, a summary of the original AECOM recommendations from 02 August 2023 are provided below.

- *An ecological survey of the site of the Proposed Development and surrounding area should be carried out to confirm the presence or likely absence of protected or notable habitats and species. If protected / notable ecological features are identified which could be subject to adverse effects from the Proposed Development, appropriate mitigation should be provided.*
- *The Proposed Development should seek to maintain a suitable buffer between itself and the disused railway line to the north. South Ayrshire Council may wish to request a lighting design statement / assessment to demonstrate that this habitat, which is likely to function as an ecological green corridor, will not be artificially illuminated by the Proposed Development once constructed.*
- *South Ayrshire Council may wish to request clarification / further detail on the proposals for native tree / shrub planting. The current proposals are likely to be sufficient to achieve an overall enhancement from the Proposed Development. However, the Applicant may wish to consider increasing this further by extending planting to provide an improved network of treelines / hedgerows linking Maldens to Doonfoot SSSI / Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks / Dunure to Drumblane Burn LWS to the wider landscape.*

The Proposed Development (erection of a dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit) is understood to consist of construction of a private dwelling and several other buildings to provide animal care. There will also be associated access tracks and landscaping. The site of the Proposed Development is an improved grassland agricultural field bounded to the north by a disused railway with trees, and to the west by a post and wire fence with further agricultural land beyond. On all other sides is continued agricultural field.

In support of the Proposed Development, the applicant has submitted an Ecology Survey report authored by JK Ecology.



The AECOM review found the Ecology Report to follow best practice guidance, present a satisfactory description of the baseline ecological features present on site, and that the assessment described in the Ecology Report is sufficient for a development of this nature and size.

Our only minor comments on this report relate to the reporting of the survey methodology. It would be preferable if a more detailed survey methodology was described, to accord with Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) best practice reporting guidance (which is cited in the Report), specifically:

- The ecology / habitat survey approach (e.g. extended JNCC Phase 1) is not described in the methods section.
- It is briefly noted in the Methods / Limitations section (2.3) that *"the assessment of trees for their suitability for roosting bats was a ground-level tree assessment"*. It is assumed this means a full Ground Level Tree Assessment was carried out as per Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) best practice guidance, but this is not described in the survey methods section.

South Ayrshire Council may wish to request clarification on the above points, although we reiterate that they are minor.

The Ecology Report recommends a series of ecological mitigation measures which should be carried out in full. In summary these are:

- Bat survey / inspection of one tree (reference TN12) by a licenced bat ecologist prior to any works directly affecting it in the active season (i.e., between March and November).
- Construction and operational mitigation regarding bats – including sensitive lighting design to reduce the impacts of operational lighting on notable species, particularly in the area of the disused railway line to the north.
- Construction mitigation to avoid effects on common native mammals which may use the site.

All ecological recommendations (see Ecology Report for full detail) should be written into the relevant construction and design documentation (e.g., Method Statements, building plans) and followed in full during construction and operation of the Proposed Development.

The Ecology Report does not include any recommendations for ecological enhancement. However, in accordance with local and national planning policy, the Proposed Development should seek to deliver enhancements for biodiversity. Such measures would be relatively easy to integrate into the design. For example, as suggested in the AECOM response from 02 August 2023, South Ayrshire Council could discuss with the Applicant the proposals for native tree / shrub planting and the extension of any planting to provide an improved network of treelines / hedgerows linking Maidens to Doonfoot SSSI / Goatsgreen to Katie Gray's Rocks / Dunure to Drumblane Burn LWS to the wider landscape.

It is noted in the Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) submitted with the application that the Applicant is in ownership of the relevant lands to facilitate the above suggestion, and that this is something which the Applicant is willing to accommodate. Further details of proposals for biodiversity enhancement should be submitted to South Ayrshire Council, for example in the form of a clear plan with accompanying statement. South Ayrshire Council may wish to secure this through a suitable planning condition.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Sara McBride  
Principal Ecologist  
AECOM Limited

[Redacted signature block]

cc: Tony Marshall (AECOM)  
Erin Goldie (South Ayrshire Council)



Contact: [REDACTED]  
ARA Case Officer: AP  
Planning Case Officer: F Sharp  
Planning Application No: 24/00127/APP  
Location: Laigh Kyleston Farm A719, Ayr

Date Received: 08/03/2024  
Date Returned: 22/03/2024  
Recommendation: No Objection

The following response has been prepared following a review of the information made available through South Ayrshire Council's Planning portal website at the time of writing.

**Expository Statement (if applicable):**

The proposed Managers House and replacement animal isolation unit will have a negligible impact on the existing traffic network and therefore the ARA offer no objections.



Tuesday, 19 March 2024



Local Planner  
Planning Service  
South Ayrshire Council  
Ayr  
KA7 1UT

Development Operations  
The Bridge  
Buchanan Gate Business Park  
Cumbernauld Road  
Stepps  
Glasgow  
G33 6FB

Development Operations  
Freephone Number - [REDACTED]  
E-Mail - [REDACTED]  
www.scottishwater.co.uk  
Follow Us     

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Laigh Kyleston Farm A719, From Dunure Road Ayr To Ayr Road, Fisherton  
Ayr, KA7 4LD  
Planning Ref: 24/00127/APP  
Our Ref: DSCAS-0106077-NW9  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and replacement of animal isolation unit**

**Please quote our reference in all future correspondence**

### **Audit of Proposal**

Scottish Water has no objection to this planning application; however, the applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the proposed development can currently be serviced. Please read the following carefully as there may be further action required. Scottish Water would advise the following:

### **Water Capacity Assessment**

Scottish Water has carried out a Capacity review and we can confirm the following:

- ▶ There is currently sufficient capacity in the BRADAN Water Treatment Works to service your development. However, please note that further investigations may be required to be carried out once a formal application has been submitted to us.

---

### **Please Note**

- ▶ The applicant should be aware that we are unable to reserve capacity at our water and/or waste water treatment works for their proposed development. Once a formal connection application is submitted to Scottish Water after full planning permission has been granted, we will review the availability of capacity at that time and advise the applicant accordingly.

---

## **Surface Water**

For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.

There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges.

In order to avoid costs and delays where a surface water discharge to our combined sewer system is anticipated, the developer should contact Scottish Water at the earliest opportunity with strong evidence to support the intended drainage plan prior to making a connection request. We will assess this evidence in a robust manner and provide a decision that reflects the best option from environmental and customer perspectives.

### **General notes:**

- ▶ Scottish Water asset plans can be obtained from our appointed asset plan providers:
  - ▶ Site Investigation Services (UK) Ltd
  - ▶ Tel: [REDACTED]
  - ▶ Email: [REDACTED]
  - ▶ [www.sisplan.co.uk](http://www.sisplan.co.uk)
- ▶ Scottish Water's current minimum level of service for water pressure is 1.0 bar or 10m head at the customer's boundary internal outlet. Any property which cannot be adequately serviced from the available pressure may require private pumping arrangements to be installed, subject to compliance with Water Byelaws. If the developer wishes to enquire about Scottish Water's procedure for checking the water pressure in the area, then they should write to the Customer Connections department at the above address.
- ▶ If the connection to the public sewer and/or water main requires to be laid through land out-with public ownership, the developer must provide evidence of formal approval from the affected landowner(s) by way of a deed of servitude.
- ▶ Scottish Water may only vest new water or waste water infrastructure which is to be laid through land out with public ownership where a Deed of Servitude has been obtained in our favour by the developer.
- ▶ The developer should also be aware that Scottish Water requires land title to the area of land where a pumping station and/or SUDS proposed to vest in Scottish Water is constructed.
- ▶ Please find information on how to submit application to Scottish Water at [our Customer Portal](#).

---

## **Next Steps:**



## ► All Proposed Developments

All proposed developments require to submit a Pre-Development Enquiry (PDE) Form to be submitted directly to Scottish Water via [our Customer Portal](#) prior to any formal Technical Application being submitted. This will allow us to fully appraise the proposals.

Where it is confirmed through the PDE process that mitigation works are necessary to support a development, the cost of these works is to be met by the developer, which Scottish Water can contribute towards through Reasonable Cost Contribution regulations.

## ► Non Domestic/Commercial Property:

Since the introduction of the Water Services (Scotland) Act 2005 in April 2008 the water industry in Scotland has opened to market competition for non-domestic customers. All Non-domestic Household customers now require a Licensed Provider to act on their behalf for new water and waste water connections. Further details can be obtained at [www.scotlandontap.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandontap.gov.uk)

## ► Trade Effluent Discharge from Non-Domestic Property:

- Certain discharges from non-domestic premises may constitute a trade effluent in terms of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968. Trade effluent arises from activities including; manufacturing, production and engineering; vehicle, plant and equipment washing, waste and leachate management. It covers both large and small premises, including activities such as car washing and laundrettes. Activities not covered include hotels, caravan sites or restaurants.
- If you are in any doubt as to whether the discharge from your premises is likely to be trade effluent, please contact us on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] using the subject "Is this Trade Effluent?". Discharges that are deemed to be trade effluent need to apply separately for permission to discharge to the sewerage system. The forms and application guidance notes can be found [here](#).
- Trade effluent must never be discharged into surface water drainage systems as these are solely for draining rainfall run off.
- For food services establishments, Scottish Water recommends a suitably sized grease trap is fitted within the food preparation areas, so the development complies with Standard 3.7 a) of the Building Standards Technical Handbook and for best management and housekeeping practices to be followed which prevent food waste, fat oil and grease from being disposed into sinks and drains.
- The Waste (Scotland) Regulations which require all non-rural food businesses, producing more than 5kg of food waste per week, to segregate that waste for separate collection. The regulations also ban the use of food waste disposal units that dispose of food waste to the public sewer. Further information can be found at [www.resourceefficientscotland.com](http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com)



I trust the above is acceptable however if you require any further information regarding this matter please contact me on [REDACTED] or via the e-mail address below or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

**Carly Gourlay**  
Development Operations Analyst  
[REDACTED]

**Scottish Water Disclaimer:**

*"It is important to note that the information on any such plan provided on Scottish Water's infrastructure, is for indicative purposes only and its accuracy cannot be relied upon. When the exact location and the nature of the infrastructure on the plan is a material requirement then you should undertake an appropriate site investigation to confirm its actual position in the ground and to determine if it is suitable for its intended purpose. By using the plan you agree that Scottish Water will not be liable for any loss, damage or costs caused by relying upon it or from carrying out any such site investigation."*

From: Robins, Paul (NRS) [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:31 PM

To: Planning Development [REDACTED]

Subject: 24/00127/APP -

OFFICIAL

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above application for planning consent downloaded recently by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service for comment.

As for the previous, this application lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity based on the presence of recorded sites and monuments in the surrounding landscape of prehistoric and medieval date. The Ayrshire coastal plain generally has a raised sensitivity due to the richness of the archaeological records both existing and as generated by more recent investigations in the landscape such as at the nearby holiday park and housing developments. Although there are no recorded sites within the application area, with the recorded extensive and multi-phase evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding landscape the area has potential to produce buried archaeology. Any buried remains that survive would be affected or destroyed by the scale of the excavations required by the proposals and so a potential archaeological issue is raised.

Government policy as set out in National Planning Framework 4 is that planning authorities should ensure that prospective developers arrange for any archaeological issues raised by their proposals to be adequately addressed. Since there is potential for more discoveries in this area any piece of new ground disturbance stands a reasonable chance of encountering buried remains and hence some form of archaeological mitigation is required for this proposal. In order to effect this a condition relating to the archaeological issue should be placed on any consent granted by your Council for these or future proposals. The suggested wording of such a condition is given below. This is based on current best practice and experience, and reflects the principles outlined in Planning Advice Note 2/2011:-

No development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

This condition would be implemented by means of the developer appointing a professional archaeological contractor to prepare the written scheme of investigation (WSI) required by the condition. This is basically a project design document, which should set out the various phases of work that may be required to suitably address the impact of the proposal on archaeological material. As the first stage of this process, the archaeological contractor would be required to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the application site ahead of any proposed ground disturbance. Depending on the scale and significance of the deposits encountered, further stages of archaeological

work may be required such as watching brief or open area excavation either before or during construction as necessary. Any such discoveries will have to be excavated before their destruction by the development including any post excavation analyses and publication required.

Please contact me by email if you require any further information or advice.

Regards

Paul

Paul Robins, Senior Archaeologist, West of Scotland Archaeology Service, 231 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RX, email: [REDACTED]

**24/00127/APP**

**Development Management Service comments for LRB**

The Report of Handling and reasons for refusal should be read in full.

The key issues as captured within the report of handling can be summarised as follows:

- the proposed standalone dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit is remote and disconnected physically and visually from the operational base and buildings of the farmpark to which they are proposed to support and serve.
- There is an existing and established animal isolation unit located within the operational base of the farmpark, alongside other buildings which reinforces that there is no reason to why a replacement or upgraded animal isolation unit could not be provided in an around the farm park base. There is sufficient land to accommodate this.
- Similarly, there is no reason why a dwellinghouse could not be sited in closer proximity to the existing group of buildings that form the farmpark operational base – there is sufficient land.
- The proposal is not justified in terms of a need for the development in this remote location on the periphery of the farmpark.
- The proposal introduces sporadic and prominent development in the landscape where there is no development at present.
- The access driveway is 170 metres long and uncharacteristic in the local and would contribute irreversibly to the suburbanisation of the countryside.
- The development will result in daily and potentially numerous vehicle trips to and from the animal isolation unit which would not occur otherwise if a dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit were sited closer to the existing Farm Park and operational base.
- The design of the dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit are suburban in nature rather than being reflective of a more traditional scale and proportions of rural development and local vernacular.
- The proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework 4 and Local Development Plan 2 and also the Council's Policy Guidance in relation to Rural Housing.



26/09/24

**From:** Marshall, Tony [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Local Review Body [REDACTED] Boston, Emma  
[REDACTED] Craven, Rick [REDACTED] Davidson, Jenny  
**Subject:** RE: LRB/24/00127/APP - Appointed Officer Comments

Good morning,

Thank you for your email.

We have no further comments to make.

Best regards,

Tony

Tony Marshall CEng MCIEEM

Technical Director  
[REDACTED]

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**MICHAEL S EVANS, BA (Econ), Dip TP, MRTPI, MCIM**

Planning Consultant

---



"TY-NEWYDD"  
11 MURCHIE DRIVE  
KINGS MEADOW  
PRESTWICK  
KA9 2ND

Tel: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Your Ref: LRB/24/00127/APP

8 October 2024

Ms Karen Briggs  
Service Lead – Legal and Licensing  
Chief Executive's Office  
South Ayrshire Council  
County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
AYR  
KA7 1DR

Dear Ms Briggs

**South Ayrshire Local Review Body**

**Application Ref No: 24/00127/APP**

**Applicant: Hobson Architects**

**Site Address: Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road, Ayr to Ayr Road, Fisherton, Ayr, South Ayrshire, KA7 4LD**

**Description: Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation Unit**

I enclose, for your consideration, our response to the Case Officer's Comments.

Should you require any information regarding this submission, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



**Michael S Evans**  
**Planning Consultant**

enc



## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



### Application Ref No: LRB/24/00127/APP; Appointed Officer's Comments

In response to the matters raised, my comments are as follows:

#### 1. General

- LRB Members will note that the Planning Service on page 8 of the Report of Handling states that ***'It is accepted that the farm park enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional residential property'***. The matter therefore appears to be not one of principle but one of choice of location
- Local Development Plan 2, Coastal Strategy Diagram, confirms that, in terms of 'type of development', **both Heads of Ayr and Craig Tara fall within the 'intensive' category**
- This therefore, in our opinion, provides the appropriate policy context for the assessment of the proposals. At the detailed level, the proposals would be implemented within the boundary shown in Figs 1 and 2 established in 1992 (Application No P/92/0708)
- The 'standard' rural housing guidelines would therefore not apply
- As Board Members will no doubt be aware, Heads of Ayr Farm Park has become established as a 'significant leisure/tourism facility' destination:
  - Farm Park awarded Top 10% of Highest Rated Visitor Attractions Worldwide by Tripadvisor
  - Heads of Ayr Nursery awarded status as Top 20 Nurseries in Scotland by Daynurseries – the only Ayrshire Nursery to achieve Top 20 status
  - Awarded Best Visitor Attraction in Glasgow and the West of Scotland by VisitScotland
  - Awarded Best Rural Attraction in the UK by National Farm Attractions Networkand many other awards.
- Around 110 employees during peak season and 50 permanent full-time staff, and growing
- Around 200,000 visitors per year, with 87% of visitors coming to the area from outside Ayrshire
- Ayrshire's only licensed zoo, displaying rare and critically endangered animals and providing education to visitors and school groups
- Providing educational experience to student vets and other similar fields within Ayrshire





## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk



- The proposals therefore are critical for the growth of the business. The Isolation Unit will provide future security for both the animals (which is a requirement of the zoo license) and for staff

## 2. Specific

### Reason for Refusal

*'The proposed standalone dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit is remote and disconnected physically and visually from the operational base and buildings of the farmpark to which they are proposed to support and serve'*

### Response

Its role and function mean that the Isolation Unit has to be isolated to provide the range of services currently required from a unit of this kind. The existing unit was given its role by Heads of Ayr Management purely on the availability of space at the time, i.e. the mid/late 1990s. The requirements of animal welfare and the whole approach to the delivery of these have changed out of all recognition since then, with significant implications for the choice of location.

### Reason for Refusal

*'There is an existing and established animal isolation unit located within the operational base of the farmpark, alongside other buildings which reinforces that there is no reason to why a replacement or upgraded animal isolation unit could not be provided in and around the farmpark base. There is sufficient land to accommodate this'*

### Response

Figs 1 and 2 (attached), which show the current use of the land/site as a whole, confirm, as has consistently been pointed out, that the choice of alternative sites is limited – very limited and, in fact, confined to the site that was chosen.

### Reason for Refusal

*'Similarly, there is no reason why a dwellinghouse could not be sited in closer proximity to the existing group of buildings that form the farmpark operational base – there is sufficient land'*

### Response

The proposed Dwellinghouse will be the manager's base and needs to be located close to the Isolation Unit. Figs 1 and 2 confirm that, in fact, there was only one location available that could also satisfy the requirements of isolation as well as the need for House/Isolation Unit proximity. The proposals for a House, in this instance, should not therefore be viewed as an incongruous outlier in an otherwise 'rural area' but should be recognised as a necessary development within the recognised Farm Park boundary and within an area recognised in policy terms as 'intensively' developed in the Council's Coastal Strategy.





## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



### Reason for Refusal

*'The proposal is not justified in terms of a need for the development in this remote location on the periphery of the farmpark'*

### Response

The word 'remote' is used to create the impression of great distance between the proposals and the nearest building, where this would be, in fact, approximately 100 yards once the Nursery extension is constructed. Figs 1 and 2 show the extent of current uses within the Farm Park. A combination of the absence of alternative sites and the specific requirements for the Isolation Unit to be isolated from most uses means that a peripheral location for the proposals is inevitable.

### Reason for Refusal

*'The proposal introduces sporadic and prominent development in the landscape where there is no development at present'*

### Response

While the location is peripheral – and the reasons for this have been explained – the proposals are certainly not 'sporadic' and have been designed along with associated landscaping to have a low overall profile.

### Reason for Refusal

*'The access driveway is 170 metres long and uncharacteristic in the locale and would contribute irreversibly to the suburbanisation of the countryside'*

### Response

The proposed access will occupy the route of a track currently used for Farm Park/farm management purposes. While located within the Farm Park, the fact that it is adjacent to the wider countryside to the west has been recognised in the overall approach taken to potential impact. 170-yard approaches are not untypical of countryside locations and to suggest that the detail of the proposals will 'contribute irreversibly to the suburbanisation of the countryside' is a gross exaggeration. See Fig 3 attached at the end.

### Reason for Refusal

*'The development will result in daily and potentially numerous vehicle trips to and from the animal isolation unit which would not occur otherwise if a dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit were sited closer to the existing Farm Park and operational base'*

### Response

Important to note that Ayrshire Roads Alliance – the Council's advisers on transport matters – made no objection to the proposals. Actual level of movement within the Farm Park to and from the Isolation Unit is going to be numerically small and will not, as a result, lead to problems of vehicle/pedestrian conflict.



## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



### Reason for Refusal

*'The design of the dwellinghouse and animal isolation unit are suburban in nature rather than being reflective of a more traditional scale and proportions of rural development and local vernacular'*

### Response

The Planning Authority provides no guidance as to what 'suburban' actually means. The proposals are low and long which is typical of many houses in rural Ayrshire. That said, the Planning Service seemed unconcerned about the 'traditional scale and proportions of rural development' when consenting proposals at Drumbain or, indeed, elsewhere in the countryside in the recent past.

### Reason for Refusal

*The proposal is contrary to National Planning Framework 4 and Local Development Plan 2 and also the Council's Policy Guidance in relation to Rural Housing'*

### Response

The policies of NPF4 and LDP2 must be read as a whole and, in our opinion therefore, the proposals are aligned with the overall aims and objectives of both.

Michael S Evans  
Planning Consultant





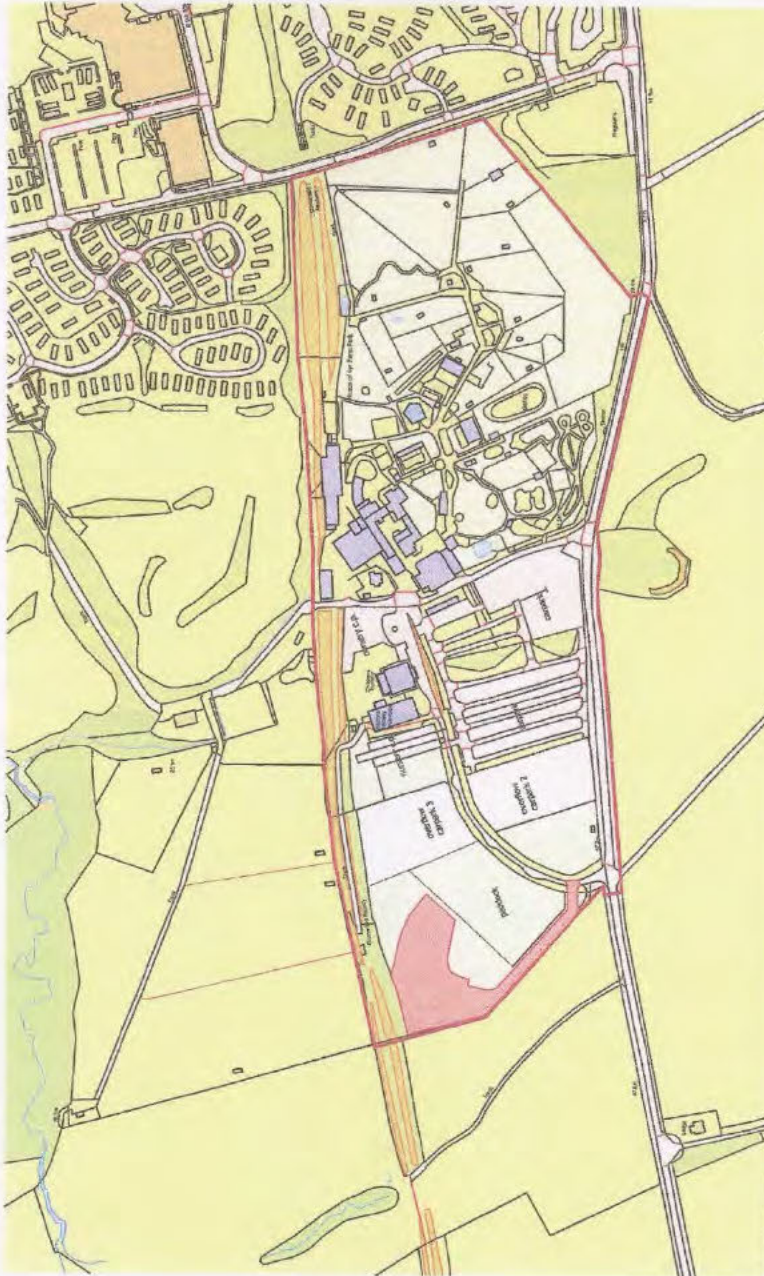
## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



**Fig 1: Range and Extent of Uses with Heads of Ayr Farm Park**





## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



**Fig 2: Search Area for Site of the Proposals**





## HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

Dunure Road, Ayr, KA7 4LD

[www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk)



**Fig 3: Satellite Image of Existing Traditional Driveways of Neighbouring Properties**



**From:** Sharp, Fiona [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2024 12:20 PM  
**To:** Local Review Body [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: LRB - Laigh Kyleston Farm

Apologies,

A slide was omitted from the earlier version. Please see attached updated version.

Regards

Fiona

**From:** Sharp, Fiona  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2024 11:19 AM  
**To:** Local Review Body [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** LRB - Laigh Kyleston Farm

Hello Rebecca,

Please refer to the attached photographs in relation to the above LRB. As you might recall, the Service submission was provided while I was on annual leave. It seems that the photographs were omitted in error. Please see attached photographs – please not this is not new information, but to assist members to understand the setting of the site, and therefore to aid understanding and consideration.

Regards

Fiona

**Please Note:**  
**Planning and Building Standards Staff are now working remotely.**

Regards

Fiona Sharp (MRTPI) | Supervisory Planner | Housing, Operations and Development | Planning Service – Development Management | [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED] | South Ayrshire Council | County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR | Fiona Sharp | Dealbhadair Sgrudaidh (Dealbhadh Àite) | Inbhean Dealbhaidh is Togail | Cuir togalaichean na sgìre | [REDACTED] | Tel: [REDACTED] | [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Web: <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning>  
Submit Planning Applications online at;  
<https://www.eplanning.scot/ePlanningClient/>

Application 24/00127/APP

Laigh Kyleston Farm



View of application site and surroundings, as taken from site access in south-western corner (Google image)

- A – Application site
- B – Existing nursery school
- C – Western periphery of farm park and operational building grouping



Application site in part (right) and view of intervening land to east  
Taken from nursery school grounds

A – A719 coastal road

B – application site

(Case officer photo's)





Operational buildings associated with farm park and adjacent nursey to east as viewed from access road  
(Case officer photograph)





View from A719 coastal road to west (Google image)

A – Application site

LRB/24/00127/APP - Environmental Health Comments received on 30.10.24

**From:** Kelly, Sabrina [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** Local Review Body [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: LRB/24/00127/APP - Case Officer Photographs

Good Afternoon,

I can advise that Environmental Health have no further comment to make.

Best Regards,

Sabrina

Sabrina Kelly | Environmental Health Officer | Environmental Health | Chief Executive's Office |  
[REDACTED] | Telephone: [REDACTED] | South Ayrshire Council | Trading  
Standards & Environmental Health, 5-7 River Terrace, Ayr, KA8 0BJ | [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Sabrina Kelly** | Oifigear Slàinte Àrainneachd | Inbhean Malairt agus Slàinte Àrainneachd | Àrd-  
oifigear Roinn  
Barraid na h- Aibhne | [REDACTED]  
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**From:** Local Review Body [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:23 AM  
**To:** Environmental Health [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Local Review Body [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** LRB/24/00127/APP - Case Officer Photographs

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

The local Review Body has received further information from planning regarding their comments.  
There are a set of photographs which have just been received by the local Review Body yesterday for circulation.

If you could please respond with any comments you may have on the attached on/before the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, that would be much appreciated.

For your information, it is considered likely that the Local Review Body will consider this review at its meeting on 3 December 2024, however this date cannot be guaranteed, and you will be advised further in due course.

Kind regards,

South Ayrshire Council Local Review Body

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Your Ref: LRB/24/00127/APP

6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2024

Ms Karen Briggs  
Service Lead – Legal and Licensing  
Chief Executive's Office  
South Ayrshire Council  
County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
AYR  
KA7 1DR

Dear Ms Briggs

**South Ayrshire Local Review Body**  
**Application Ref No: 24/00127/APP**  
**Applicant: Hobson Architects**  
**Site Address: Laigh Kyleston Farm, A719 from Dunure Road, Ayr to Ayr Road,**  
**Fisherton, Ayr, South Ayrshire, KA7 4LD**  
**Description: Erection of Dwellinghouse and Replacement of Animal Isolation**  
**Unit**

We refer to and thank you for your further letter of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and the latest submission made by the Planning Service which has to be treated as new information?

My comments are as follows:

1. As a general statement initially, and as an overall response to the images created by the Planning Service, we are extremely disappointed at the lengths gone to produce what is in effect an exaggerated impression of the situation. As our detailed comments on each image, set out in our Appendix 1 indicate there must surely be serious misgivings about the technique and the reliability/voracity of the “product”. These are not actual photographs.
2. The Planning Services appears to be fixated with proving the “extremely isolated” nature of the proposals whilst clearly continuing to ignore the reasons set out in the documentation submitted by us previously concerning the matter of location.

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3. The facts of the matter are (and we apologize to the Board members for repeating information that they will have already received, on more than one occasion!) are as follows:

- *LRB Members will note that the Planning Service on page 8 of the Report of Handling states that:*

***'It is accepted that the farm park enterprise might potentially benefit from an additional residential property'.***

*The matter therefore appears to be not one of principle but one of choice of location.*

- *Indeed, on that point, Local Development Plan 2, Coastal Strategy Diagram, confirms that, in terms of 'type of development', **both Heads of Ayr and Craig Tara fall within the 'intensive' category.***
- *This, therefore, in our opinion, provides the appropriate policy context for the assessment of the proposals. At the detailed level, the proposals would be implemented within the boundary of the Farm Park as shown in Figs 1 and 2 established initially in 1992 (Application No P/92/0708)*
- *The 'standard' rural housing guidelines would therefore not apply.*
- *An extensive/intense search for a site that responded to the requirements of a house (Managers House) and animal Isolation unit in combination was undertaken.  
As figure 1 & 2 confirm, because of the use made of the various parts of the Farm Park, the options were limited. In fact, limited to the location eventually "selected".  
We have also consistently maintained that the actual impact on the landscape will be minimal.*

In the final analysis the images submitted by the Planning Service do not represent the facts on the ground.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully



**Michael S Evans**  
**Planning Consultant**

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**MICHAEL S EVANS, BA (Econ), Dip TP, MRTPI, MCIM**

Planning Consultant

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Appendix 1.0

- Figure 1: Heads of Ayr Farm Park Boundary
- Figure 2: Search Area for site of the Proposals
- Overmarked copy of Site Photograph document issued on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024



## Planning Consultant

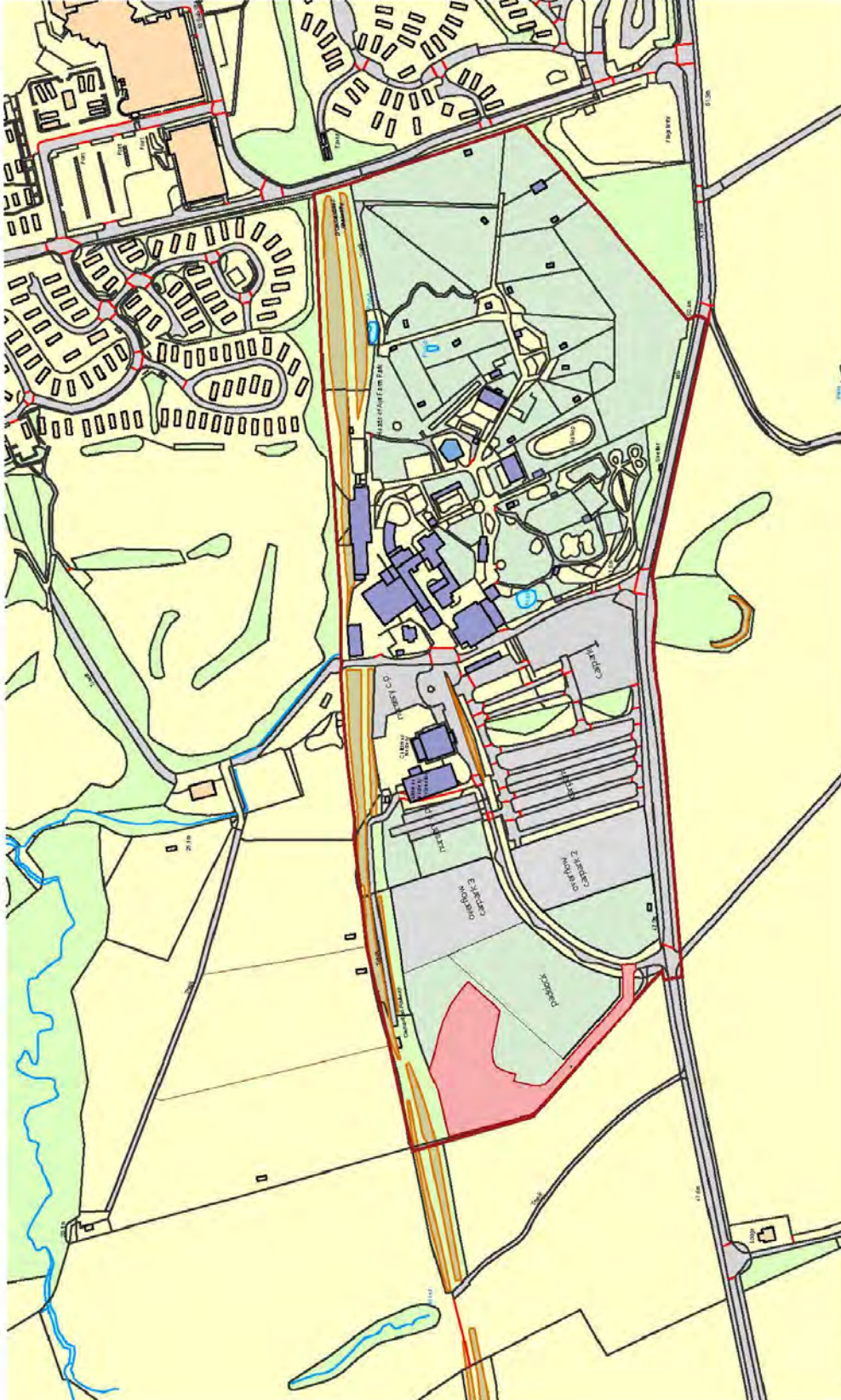


Figure 1: Heads of Ayr Farm Park Boundary



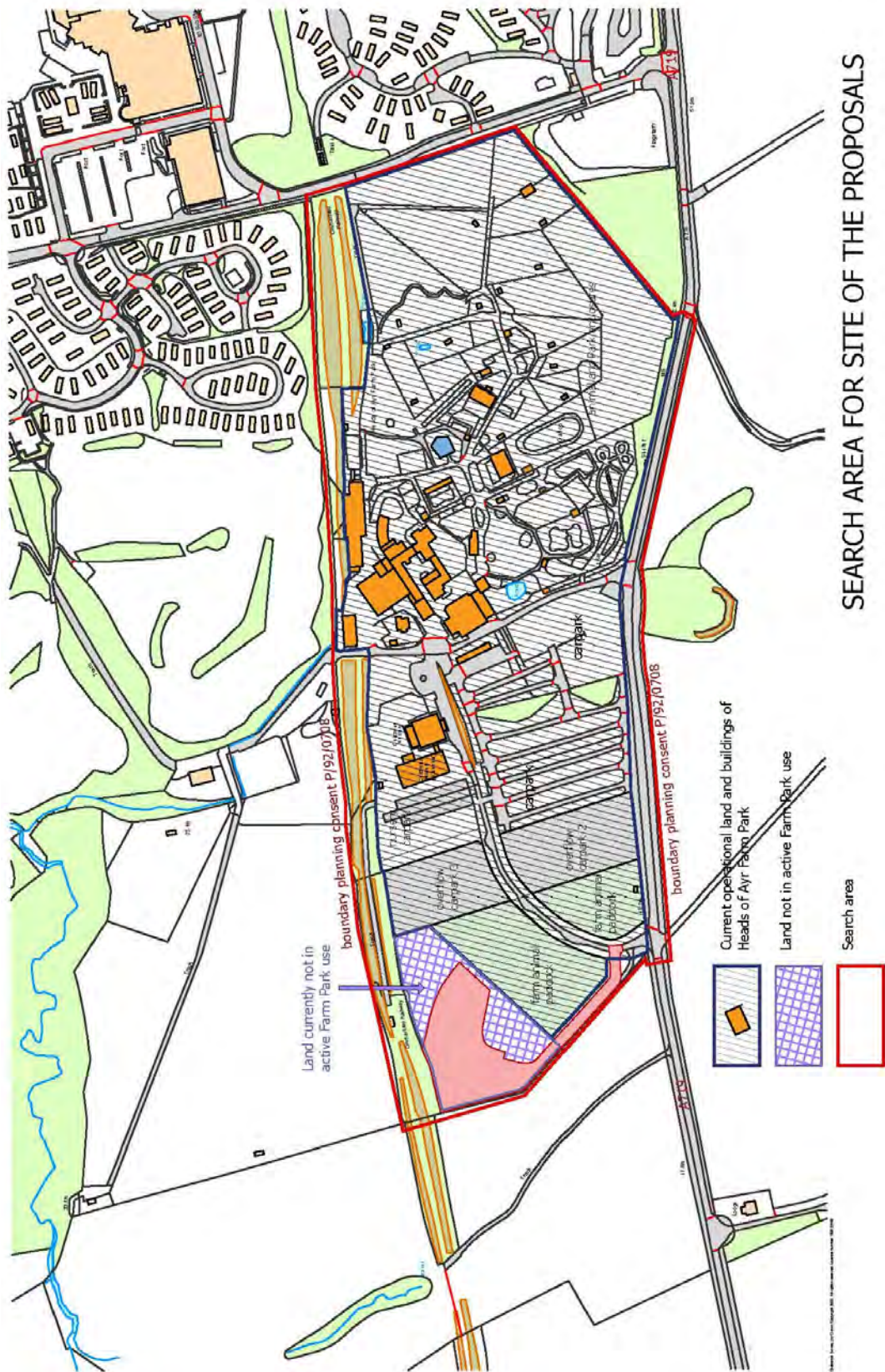


Figure 2: Search Area for site of the Proposals

Comparison between Planning Service "photographs" issued on the 29th October  
and

Actual site photographs taken on the 31st October using the same viewpoint.

We would add the following commentary on the photographs issued by the case officer.

**Image 1**

This photograph has been downloaded from Google Streetview and as such it shows a distorted and "stretched" visualization of the site access which makes it appear that the site is further away from the Farmpark than it actually is.

Furthermore all Google Streetview images are taken using a vehicle with an elevated camera and as such it does not offer a realistic view of the site from standard pedestrian eye level.

I'm not convinced they've properly attributed the use of the image to Google.

**Image 2**

This "panorama" has been compiled by joining two photographs together and as such it portrays a distorted view of the site from the Farmpark.

**Image 3**

Not sure what this photograph is demonstrating.

**Image 4**

Again, This photograph has been downloaded from Google Streetview and as such it shows a distorted and "stretched" visualization of the site from further down the A719.

Furthermore all Google Streetview images are taken using a vehicle with an elevated camera and as such it does not offer a realistic view of the site from standard pedestrian eye level.

Finally we are not convinced that the Planning Service have properly attributed the use of the Streetview image to Google, and consequently might be breach of Copyright

# Application 24/00127/APP

Laigh Kyleston Farm





View of application site and surroundings, as taken from site access in south-western corner (Google image)

- A – Application site
- B – Existing nursery school
- C – Western periphery of farm park and operational building grouping





Application site in part (right) and view of intervening land to east  
Taken from nursery school grounds

A – A719 coastal road

B – application site

(Case officer photo's)







Operational buildings associated with farm park and adjacent nursey to east as viewed from access road  
(Case officer photograph)





View from A719 coastal road to west (Google image)

A – Application site





**Conditions should the LRB be minded to approve the application.**

- 1.) The development to which this permission relates must be commenced no later than **five years** from the date of this permission

Reason:

To be in compliance with Section 59 of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

- 2.) That the development hereby granted shall be implemented in accordance with the approved plan(s) as listed below and as forming part of this permission unless a variation required by a condition of the permission, or a non-material variation has been agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason:

To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans unless otherwise agreed.

- 3.) No development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Reason:

This application site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity based on the presence of recorded sites and monuments in the surrounding landscape of prehistoric and medieval date. With the recorded extensive and multi-phase evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding landscape the area has potential to produce buried archaeology.

- 4.) That prior to the commencement of development, samples, or a brochure of all materials to be used on external surfaces including building elevations, roofs and driveway, in respect of type, colour and texture, shall be submitted for the prior written approval of the Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be finished in the materials approved under the terms of this condition.

Reason:

To ensure that materials are appropriate for the site and in the interests of visual amenity.

- 5.) That prior to the commencement of development, details of the location, height and materials of all new boundary fences, gates or other means of enclosure shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for written approval and thereafter shall be implemented as approved.

Reason:

To ensure that the design, height and materials are appropriate for the site and in the interests of visual amenity.

- 6.) The recommended ecological mitigation measures set out within the Ecology Survey by jkecollogy dated October 2023 shall be implemented in full during the construction phase of the development and operation of the development hereby permitted.

Reasons:

To ensure no adverse impact on European Protected Species including bats and other native mammals.

- 7.) In addition to the planting as illustrated on drawing no.SL002, an enhanced scheme of biodiversity planting shall be submitted for the approval in writing of the Planning Authority and shall include proposals for native tree/ shrub planting to enhance and improve the existing network of tree lines/ hedgerows to the north of the site. Thereafter, the planting illustrated within drawing no. SL002 and the enhanced scheme of biodiversity planting to the north of the site shall be implemented in full within the first planting season following occupation of the development, unless otherwise agreed in writing. All planting required under the terms of this condition shall be permanently retained and any planting which, within a period of 5 years from the occupation of the development, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, is dying, damaged or becoming seriously diseased, shall be replaced by plants of similar size and species to those originally required to be planted.

Reason:

To ensure compliance with Policy 3 – Biodiversity of National Planning Framework 4 and to provide an improved biodiversity network and links to nearby Sites of Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife.

- 8.) Prior to the commencement of development, a lighting plan and design statement shall be submitted for the approval in writing of the Planning Authority and thereafter shall be implemented as approved. The lighting plan and design statement shall include details of the siting and design of all lighting and demonstrate that it will not artificially illuminate the disused railway area to the north of the site.

Reason:

To protect the ecologically green corridor to the north of the site from disturbance.

- 9.) Prior to the commencement of development, existing and proposed cross section drawings and finished floor levels shall be submitted for the approval in writing of the Planning Authority and thereafter shall be implemented as approved.

Reason:

To demonstrate any level changes within the site and any associated retention is acceptable and does not adversely impact the surrounding area or landscape.

- 10.) The integral garage hereby permitted shall be used solely for domestic purposes incidental to the use of the dwellinghouse and no commercial activities shall be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Reason:

To define the terms of this permission.

- 11.) The animal isolation unit shall be used solely for this purpose and shall not be used for commercial activities or be accessible to visiting members of the public.

Reason:

To define the terms of this permission.

**Advice notes:**

- 1.) Scottish Water: There is currently capacity at the BRADAN Water Treatment Works to service the development however Scottish Water are unable to reserve capacity. A formal connection application requires to be submitted to Scottish Water.
- 2.) Scottish Water: They will not accept any surface water connections to their combined sewer system unless in exceptional circumstances. Scottish Water should be contacted if a connection request is being made.
- 3.) Surface water from the development should be treated through Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

■■■■■

26/09/24

List of Plans Determined:

Plan Type	Reference	Version No.	Received Date
Drawing	P001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	P002		22.02.2024
Drawing	SL001	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL002	rev A	22.02.2024
Drawing	SL003	rev A	22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Design & Access Statement + Appendix		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Development Context Statement		22.02.2024
Supporting Information	Ecology Survey		22.02.2024

■■■

16/10