

Report Title: Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme, Moray
Issue Date: 19th March 2008
Client/Developer: Angus Council
Lead Designer: Haskoning UK Ltd
Local Authority: Angus Council
Location: Elgin
Planning Ref: 08/00077/EIA
Details: Proposals for a flood alleviation scheme for Elgin, Moray

19th March 2008

Environmental Services Department
The Moray Council



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Dear Sir

Moray - Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme - Planning Ref: 08/00077/EIA

I refer to your letter dated 23 January 2008 seeking a consultation response on the above proposal, and also to phone conversations between Moray Council and A+DS regarding this project.

The design was considered at an internal design review on 11 March 2008. Due to the timescale within which a response was requested it has not been possible for staff or Board Members to visit the site. A+DS was invited to review the design from information forwarded (on two CD's) and relevant drawings contained on the council's website. On that basis we comment as follows.

This is an exciting opportunity to consider the townscape and landscape implications of a design that should be perceived as something more than a technical flood alleviation study.

The river passes through, and the design will therefore impact on, the whole town. We suggest that a design statement should correlate the work with a landscape scheme, and integrate the proposals into a wider public realm strategy for Elgin. Such a study should consider how the river sits within, and how the design impacts on, the townscape.

We note that a number of trees are proposed to be removed. This will have a significant visual impact, and we trust that consideration has been given to the justification and / or mitigation of this aspect of the design.

For the future, we welcome referrals as early as possible in the lifetime of a project, preferably at pre-application stage, and appreciate the forwarding of information sufficient to describe the design in its context.

We trust these comments are helpful at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Dawson
Acting Head of Design Review