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Please tick to confirm your agreement to the following statements:

By submitting a response to the consultation, I agree that Aberdeenshire Council can use the information provided in this form, including my personal data, as part of the review of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. This will include consultation on the Main Issues Report (including any subsequent Proposed Plan).

I also agree that following the end of the consultation, i.e. after 8 April 2019, my name and respondent identification number (provided to you by Aberdeenshire Council on receipt of your submission) can be published alongside a copy of my completed response on the Main Issues Report website (contact details and information that is deemed commercially sensitive will not be made available to the public).

The data controller for this information is Aberdeenshire Council. The data on the form will be used to inform a public debate of the issues and choices presented in the Main Issues Report of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021. It will inform the content of the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.

Aberdeenshire Council will only keep your personal data for as long as is needed. Aberdeenshire Council will retain your response and personal data for a retention period of 5 years from the date upon which it was collected. After 5 years Aberdeenshire Council will review whether it is necessary to continue to retain your information for a longer period. A redacted copy of your submission will be retained for 5 years beyond the life of the Local Development Plan 2021, possibly until 2037

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If you are unhappy with the way that Aberdeenshire Council or the Joint Data Controllers have processed your personal data then you do have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Officer, but you should raise the issue with the Data Protection Officers first. The Data Protection Officers can be contacted by writing to:

- Mr Andrew Lawson, Data Protection Officer, Aberdeenshire Council, Business Services, Town House, 34 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AY

If you have difficulty understanding this document and require a translation, or you need help reading this document (for example if you need it in a different format or in another language), please phone us on 01467 536230.



Which document(s) are you commenting on?	Main Issues Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Draft Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim Environmental Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your comments

We welcome the acknowledgement in the Main Issues Report of the importance of the setting of Balfluig Castle and its integral relationship to Alford. This is an important acknowledgment and recognition of the importance of the Grade A Listed Balfluig Castle. We also agree with and acknowledge the officers' rejection of further proposed development to the east of Alford along the A944. Again, we note that officers have recognised that such development could not be carried out without significant and adverse effect on both the setting of Balfluig Castle, but also of the settlement of Alford to the east.

In terms of the draft proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim Environmental Assessment, we have further comments on both the draft proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim Environmental Assessment. In terms of the draft Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, it affords the Council a further opportunity to consider the appropriateness of the development of site OP5 which is to the east of Alford. This further extension of Alford to the east into open countryside will adversely affect both the setting of Balfluig Castle and also providing an inappropriate entrance into Alford from the east. We have previously submitted on behalf of Mr Tennant a copy of a report by CFA Archaeology. This undertook a very detailed appraisal of the impact that the development of OP5 would have on the setting of Balfluig Castle. The outcome of that assessment is that the impact would be significant and adverse. This obviously, at an application stage, would engage all the various aspects of Listed Buildings and other related legislation and policy. This was a matter which was not fully considered at the previous Local Development Plan and is a matter which the Council can now properly address. In terms of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim Environmental Assessment, we do not agree with the analysis at page 505. This includes site OP5 and fails to recognise the negative impacts that it would have both in landscape and cultural heritage issues. In particular, the significant adverse effects on the setting of Balfluig Castle have not been acknowledged whilst the landscape and visual impact is claimed to be mitigated. There is no evidence, given the topography and nature of development, that anything other than significant effects would occur.

Against the above background, we would formally invite the Council to delete OP5 from the proposed Local Plan on the grounds of adverse effects on cultural heritage. It is not an appropriate housing site and should therefore be removed from Plan.