



DECISION NOTICE

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Detailed Planning Permission

Halliday Fraser Munro Planning
Halliday Fraser Munro
8 Victoria Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1XB

on behalf of **The James Hutton Institute**

Aberdeen City Council in exercise of its powers under the above mentioned Act hereby **refuses planning permission** for the development specified below and shown in the plans and drawings listed.

Application Reference Number	241146/DPP
Address of Development	The James Hutton Institute Countesswells Road Aberdeen AB15 8QH
Description of Development	Formation of car park
Date of Decision	27 May 2025

DETAILS OF ANY VARIATION MADE TO THE APPLICATION

None.

REASON FOR DECISION

The reasons on which the Council has based this decision are as follows –

The formation of a car park not associated with any new development on an area of informal open space, conflicts with the requirements of Policy 1 (Tackling the Climate and Nature Crises) of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), which requires significant weight to be given to the global climate and nature crises. It furthermore conflicts with Policy 2 (Climate Mitigation and Adaptation), which requires development proposals to be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

The proposal comprises a permanent car park not associated with any new development, in direct conflict with Policy T3 (Parking) of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that it is necessary to address existing and future transport requirements, taking into account the requirement of Policy 13 (Sustainable Transport) of NPF4 for proposals to be considered in line with the sustainable and active travel hierarchy, which promotes walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. Commensurate with its scale, the proposal incentivises and thus likely increases reliance on private car travel to the surrounding uses, disincentivising the use of more sustainable modes of travel, including local public transport. The development therefore conflicts with Policy 13 (Sustainable Transport) of NPF4 and Policy T2 (Sustainable Transport) of the ALDP.

The car park results in the loss of the open space as a public amenity, which supported local biodiversity and contributed to the local landscape character, in conflict with the aims of Policy 20 (Blue and Green Infrastructure) of NPF4 and Policy NE2 (Green and Blue Infrastructure) of the ALDP.

Whilst the site is not in a prominent location, the absence of soft and hard landscape design, and the finish in hardcore aggregate and mats, have an informal appearance that detract from the visual amenity of the area, in conflict with the aims of Policies 14 (Design, Quality and Place) of NPF4, and Policies D1 (Quality Placemaking) and D5 (Landscape Design) of the ALDP.

Despite other biodiversity enhancements taking place on the James Hutton Institute unrelated to this development, the car park results in the permanent loss of open space, to the detriment of biodiversity. Proportionate to the scale of the development, the proposal conflicts with the aims of Policy 3 (Biodiversity) of NPF4.



A full evaluation and account of the processing of the application is contained in the report of handling, which is available by entering the application reference number at <https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/>.

PLANS AND DRAWINGS

12767-HFM-ZZ-ZZ-PL-A-00 003
12767-HFM-ZZ-ZZ-PL-A-00 001

Proposed Site Plan
Location Plan

Signed on behalf of the planning authority

Daniel Lewis
Development Management Manager

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS DECISION

RIGHT OF APPEAL

If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the planning authority –

- a) to refuse planning permission;
- b) to refuse approval, consent or agreement required by a condition imposed on a grant of planning permission;
- c) to grant planning permission or any approval, consent or agreement subject to conditions,

the applicant may require the planning authority to review the case under section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 within three months from the date of this notice. A review request must be made using the 'Notice of Review' form available from <https://www.eplanning.scot/>.

SERVICE OF PURCHASE NOTICE

If permission to develop land is refused and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development that would be permitted, the owners of the land may serve on the planning authority a purchase notice requiring the purchase of the owner of the land's interest in the land in accordance with Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.