

## **Appendix C(i): Participant Information Sheet and Research Consent Form**

**Project title: Evaluating the effect of procedural level generation on movement based gameplay mechanics.**

**Researcher name(s): Harry Findlay,  
Naman Merchant**

### What is the research about?

I invite you to participate in a research project about the relationship between procedurally generated maps and movement-based gameplay mechanics.

### Do I have to take part?

This form has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time without providing a reason and without penalty.

### What will I be required to do?

*You will be required to play a video game consisting of a procedurally generated level (or levels if you decide to play more than once) and a static (man-made) level. Your task is to navigate through each level and then proceed to fill out two questionnaires about your experiences and preferences.*

### How will you handle my data?

Your data will be stored in an anonymised form and will only be accessible to Harry Findlay and staff members of Abertay University. This means that nobody including the researchers could reasonably identify you within the data. Your data will be stored in Microsoft Forms with data fully anonymised at the point of collection (*delete as appropriate*). Your responses are treated in the strictest confidence - it will be impossible to identify individuals within a dataset when any of the research is disseminated (e.g., in publications/presentations/datasets). Abertay University acts as Data Controller (DataProtectionOfficer@abertay.ac.uk).

### Retention of research data

Researchers are obliged to retain research data for up to 10 years' post-publication, however your anonymised research data may be retained indefinitely (e.g., so that researchers engage in open research, and other researchers can access their data to confirm the conclusions of published work). Consistent with our data retention

policy, researchers retain consent forms for as long as we continue to hold information about a data subject and for 10 years for published research (including Research Degree thesis).

**Consent statement:**

Abertay University attaches high priority to the ethical conduct of research. Please consider the following before indicating your consent on this form. Indicating your consent confirms that you are willing to participate in the research, however, indicating consent does not commit you to anything you do not wish to do and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time. You are indicating consent under the following assumptions:

- I understand the contents of the participant information sheet and consent form.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the research and have had them answered satisfactorily.
- I understand that my participation is entirely voluntary and that I can withdraw from the research (parts of the project or the entire project) at any time without penalty and without having to provide an explanation.
- I understand who has access to my data and how it will be handled at all stages of the research project.

**Signature:**

**I confirm that I am willing to take part in this research:**

**PRINT NAME:**Kieran McDermott

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**23/03/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K McDermott', written over a horizontal line.

**NOTE TO RESEARCHER:** PLEASE COMPLETE CONSENT FORM IN DUPLICATE IF PROVIDING A PAPER BASED CONSENT FORM AND ALLOW THE PARTICIPANT TO TAKE A COPY WITH THEM. IF DATA FROM

ONLINE STUDIES ARE NOT FULLY ANONYMISED PARTICIPANTS MAY BE ADVISED TO TAKE A SCREENSHOT OF THE CONSENT PAGE.

**You can find our procedure for complaints (regarding research projects) and our privacy notice and legal basis for processing research data at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/legal/privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>**

*This final sentence must be retained at the end of a consent form.*