

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

Notice of the Determination that the proposed Mugdock Country Park Strategy will not be required to go through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

As required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council has reviewed the likely significance of the environmental effects of the proposed Mugdock Country Park Strategy.

East Dunbartonshire Council has made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Strategy is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects. The Mugdock Country Park Strategy will therefore not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Neil Samson

Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Land Planning and Development
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Relevant Documents:

- SEA Screening Determination Notification to Consultation Authorities on 16th July 2021
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 28th May 2021
- Responses from the Consultation Authorities:
 - Covering Letter from Scottish Government SEA Gateway
 - Response from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Response from NatureScot
 - Response from Historic Environment Scotland

Date: 16th July 2021

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

**PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CORPORATE
ASSETS**
Land Planning and Development
Broomhill Depot
Kilsyth Road
Kirkintilloch
G66 1TF

Telephone 0141 578 8600
Fax No: 0141 578 8575

SEA Gateway Administrators,

**SEA Screening Determination
Mugdock Country Park Strategy**

I refer to your letter dated 23rd June 2021 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 28th May 2021 in relation to the proposed Mugdock Country Park Strategy.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. On 15th July 2021 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Mugdock Country Park Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Strategy will not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will not be prepared alongside the document.

A copy of the screening determination will be available for inspection on the Council website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk. An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald and Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to publicise the screening determination.

In accordance with Section 10(1) of the Act, a copy of the screening determination is enclosed and I would be obliged if you could forward this onto the Consultation Authorities.

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Neil Samson (SEA Officer) on 0141 578 8615.

Yours faithfully,



Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

Mugdock Country Park Strategy

What prompted the plan:
(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The current strategy covers the period 2015-2020 and the new strategy will review the achievements and develop the Park's future direction for 2022-2027.

Plan subject:
(e.g. transport)

The main areas covered are health, wellbeing, conservation, education and service development.

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date:

25th May 2021

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The Mugdock Strategy 2022-2027 should provide an updated mission statement for the Park, refreshed aims and objectives and priorities for service delivery and infrastructure development based on customer/stakeholder feedback underpinned by sound business planning. The Strategy will pull together the land management plan and capital projects plan and combine this with an asset review.

The Strategy will be influenced by the Local Outcome Agreement, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Network Strategy and Sustainability & Climate Change Framework and emerging Climate Action Plan. This Strategy will also influence and be influenced by the emerging Greenspace Strategy from East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils.

Description of the Plan:

The Mugdock Joint Management Committee has delegated authority to operate and develop the Country Park on behalf of the 2 local authorities (section III. 10 of the Minute of Agreement). As EDC has taken on a lease for the Stirling part of the Park from 1999-2049 the Park therefore sits within the structures and strategic direction of EDC.

Strategy Aims (Draft)

The aim of the strategy is to manage Mugdock Country Park effectively and efficiently; balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance its unique environments with creative policies to encourage wider access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation whilst achieving funding goals.

Strategy Objectives (Draft)

- **Culture and Heritage:** Preserve the Park's historic heritage and enhance visitor experience and participation;
- **Education and Learning:** Provide a safe and secure environment for play, learning, social interaction, sport and recreation;
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Maximise opportunities for activities which support physical and mental wellbeing;
- **Ecology and Environment:** Work to improve and enhance biodiversity and ecological systems and increase the sustainability of open spaces;
- **Finance and Funding:** Increase opportunities for investment actively seeking funding and finding new ways to increase revenue.

The spatial scope of the Strategy is limited to Mugdock Country Park boundaries.

What are the key components of the plan?

In addition to the Aims and Objectives set out above, the component parts of the new strategy should include:

- Review of existing strategy delivery;
- Appraisal of other Country Park development strategies;
- Audit of built and natural environment assets at Mugdock;

- Stakeholder consultation;
- Options for new activity/services;
- Proposals for potential developments;
- Analysis of income opportunities;
- Series of recommendations.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

The content of the Strategy will be new information that has not been considered as part of previous SEA work for any other PPS. However, the content will be developed in line with all other relevant PPS in relation East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils which have been subject to full SEA, including the Local Development Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Greenspace Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Green Network Strategy.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

The components that are likely to require screening are the draft proposed Aims and Objectives (set out above).

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Strategy Aim (draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>After reviewing the draft Aim and Objectives, there is unlikely to be any significant impacts through the development and implementation of this Strategy.</p> <p>The overall impact is likely to be positive in nature, particularly through the potential improvements and access to the Country Park assets providing safe and secure learning spaces, social interaction and sport and recreation. In addition to this the continued improvement and enhancement of the natural environment will further enhance the anticipated impacts through the Strategy implementation.</p> <p>The Country Park (sits within East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils) covering 270 hectares of woodland, heathland and moorland, which hosts significant and diverse ecological systems which the Country Park Strategy (existing and emerging) is responsible for protecting and enhancing. The potential maintenance, developments and in some cases new facilities and services for customers will be undertaken sensitively and further enhance the ecological value and sustainability of the Country Park in line with Objective 4.</p> <p>The Strategy will also have to align with the EDC Green Network Strategy, EDC Open Space Strategy (including the emerging Greenspace Strategy), EDC Local Development Plan 2 (Proposed Plan) and extensive policy framework which will ensure the continued protection and improvement of the Country Park as a key natural environment asset for East Dunbartonshire.</p>	<p>The aim of the strategy is to manage Mugdock Country Park effectively and efficiently; balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance its unique environments with creative policies to encourage wider access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation whilst achieving funding goals.</p>
Strategy Objective 1:	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗		
<p>Culture and Heritage: Preserve the Park's historic heritage and enhance visitor experience and participation;</p>												
Strategy Objective 2:	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
<p>Education and Learning: Provide a safe and secure environment for play, learning, social interaction, sport and recreation;</p>												
Strategy Objective 3:	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		

	<p>Health and Wellbeing: Maximise opportunities for activities which support physical and mental wellbeing;</p>											
<p>Strategy Objective 4:</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="427 252 1223 316"> <tr> <td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✓</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✓</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✓</td> </tr> </table> <p>Ecology and Environment: Work to improve and enhance biodiversity and ecological systems and increase the sustainability of open spaces;</p>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓			
<p>Strategy Objective 5:</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="427 488 1223 552"> <tr> <td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td> </tr> </table> <p>Finance and Funding: Increase opportunities for investment actively seeking funding and finding new ways to increase revenue.</p>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗			
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STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

As outlined in the above initial components review (Box 10), there is potential for the Strategy to provide minor impacts on the natural and built environment, particularly in relation to **Population and Human Health** and **Biodiversity**. Any impacts identified through the development of the Strategy and related projects and activities will be undertaken in line with the existing policy framework for East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Council, which have been subject to full SEA. This includes Local Development Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Network Strategy and Open Space Strategy.

It is the Councils view that the overall environmental impacts of the Strategy are not likely to be significant. Therefore, it has been determined that, under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a full SEA is not required.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

T: 0131-244 5036
E: SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

East Dunbartonshire Council

01645 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Mugdock Country Park Strategy

Good afternoon,

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 28th May 2021.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions.

Please note, these are the views and opinions of the Consultation Authorities on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme and not a judgement on whether an SEA is required. It is therefore for the Responsible Authority to determine whether an SEA is required in the circumstances. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.

You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, that within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 5036.

Kind regards,

Melissa Shields
SEA Gateway Administrator

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
01645 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Mugdock Country Park Strategy
Screening report

Thank you for consulting SEPA on this Screening Report by way of your email of 1 June 2021.
In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) **we agree with the conclusions of the screening report** that the proposed PPS is **unlikely to have** significant environmental effects.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received. If you would like to discuss this consultation response please do not hesitate to contact me by email via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Nicki Dunn



NatureScot

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Neil Samson
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
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G66 1XQ

By e-mail only to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

16 May 2021

Dear Mr Samson,

**The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Mugdock Country Park Strategy 2022 to 2027**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 28 May 2021 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above Strategy.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We agree that the above Strategy itself is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

This is because while the Strategy may well identify some potential options for future development etc., it is unlikely that specific locations will be confirmed. As such, it would not be possible to draw any specific conclusions regarding environmental impacts based on this Strategy alone.

More importantly however, as a matter of policy, we do not generally expect that management plans/strategies for sites designated for recreation or conservation to be made subject to SEA, as such plans apply to specific sites and do not therefore give rise to effects on a wider strategic resource.

Country Parks such as Mugdock do cover an area somewhat larger than a typical "designated site". However we do not believe that this Strategy represents a particular alternative to managing a strategic resource, but that it is a rather more simple set of aims through which the existing conservation and recreation value of the Mugdock area can be enhanced and better enjoyed.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects in terms of the natural heritage. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening advice, please do not hesitate to contact me at dave.lang@nature.scot or via NatureScot's SEA Gateway at SEA_GATEWAY@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely

Dave Lang
Area Officer
Strathclyde & Ayrshire



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Neil Samson
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Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300051724
Your ref: 01645
23 June 2021

Dear Neil Samson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
01645 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Mugdock Country Park Strategy

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 28 May 2021 about the above screening report. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

Historic Environment Scotland's view

In light of the information and reasoning set out within the screening report, we **agree** with your view that there are **unlikely to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment**.

Next steps

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine within 28 days whether an environmental assessment is required and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. This may be done via the SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@gov.scot).

We hope our advice is helpful to you in making this determination. Please feel welcome to contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot.

Yours faithfully

Historic Environment Scotland