

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

Notice of the Determination that the proposed East Dunbartonshire Council Natural Environment Planning Guidance will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment

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 Natural Environment Planning Guidance.

East Dunbartonshire Council has made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Natural Environment Planning Guidance is not likely to result in significant environmental effects. The Natural Environment Planning Guidance will therefore not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Lauren Hollas
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 2nd August 2016
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 11th July 2016
- Responses from the Consultation Authorities:
 - Covering Letter from Scottish Government SEA Gateway
 - Response from Historic Scotland
 - Response from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Response from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Date: 2nd August 2016

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

**PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND
CORPORATE ASSETS**

Land Planning and Development

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Dear Sirs,

**SEA Screening Determination
East Dunbartonshire Council Natural Environmental Planning Guidance**

I refer to your letter dated 1st August 2016 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the screening report that was submitted on 11th July 2016 in relation to the proposed East Dunbartonshire Council Natural Environment Planning Guidance.

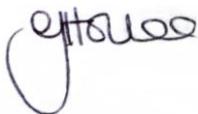
After reviewing the responses, the Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Natural Environment Planning Guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. On 2nd August 2016 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Natural Environment Planning Guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Therefore, the document will not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

A copy of the screening determination will be available for inspection during normal office hours at Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XQ and on the Council website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk. An advert will also be placed in the local newspapers 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 do not hesitate to contact the Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer on 0141 578 8532.

Yours faithfully,



Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

Natural Environment Planning Guidance (PG)

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

As part of the proposed Local Development Plan, Policy 5: Green Infrastructure and Green Network, Policy 8: Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation and Policy 9: Enhancing and Managing the Water Environment state that development will protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment. The action programme for Policy 8 sets out the requirement to produce planning guidance on the natural environment with a target of March 2017. In addition, the existing Local Plan 2 Guidance Notes on Natural Diversity, River Basin Management Planning, Special Landscape Areas and Tree Protection, need to be reviewed in light of recent good practice. The findings of the 2015 Proposed Plan Evidence Reports on the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills also need to be referred to in the guidance.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

[Land use, biodiversity, landscape and tree protection.](#)

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:

Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date:

11th July 2016

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The key policy drivers are the Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets the policy framework for consideration of the natural environment in development, and the emerging Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance which supports it. The Open Space Strategy, emerging Green Network Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan that are additional drivers and are, in themselves, material consideration for development applications.

Description of the Plan:

The Planning Guidance (PG) on the Natural Environment will support the implementation of proposed Local Development Plan Proposed Plan Policies for the whole of East Dunbartonshire. It will provide further information and guidance on environmental designations, considerations and procedures to inform the development process. The guidance will provide additional information for the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, species and significant trees on and adjacent to development sites and mitigation for the associated impacts. The LDP policy is concise so this additional guidance helps applicants, development management colleagues and other stakeholders interpret it. It will also seek to amalgamate the opportunities already identified in other relevant documents, presenting the PG solely as a guidance document.

Other background reports which support local designations in the LDP, shown on its Proposals Map, will be summarised as part of the PG. These include Statements of Importance for the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Local Landscape Areas, 2015; Review of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), 2007; Reviews of Local Nature Conservation Sites (both biodiversity and geodiversity), 2009 and 2015,

The PG will include information regarding guidance on new proposals for local natural environment designations or amendments to their boundaries which are not incorporated in the LDP. Any new LLA, boundary changes to existing LLA or new Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) identified in the PG will inform the next iteration of the Local Development Plan. The review of Local Nature Conservation Sites identified nine potential additional LNCS. Seven of these are currently identified in the existing Local Plan 2 as Important Wildlife Corridors but were not included in the LDP pending a review of their value. Now that this review has taken place their value has been reaffirmed. One further wildlife corridor at the Glasgow to Milngavie Railway Corridor is currently being surveyed and if its value is also affirmed it too will be proposed as an LNCS. In addition, a land use consultant will be commissioned to carry out a review of the special qualities of three further LLAs (Glazert Valley, Badenheath, and Bardowie/Torrance) and new potential designated landscape areas in East Dunbartonshire. They will then suggest changes to their boundaries or identify new boundaries, also revisiting the southern boundary of the Campsie Fells LLA. However, the original proposals map for the proposed Local Development Plan will remain the primary consideration for development proposals with further information on special qualities for LLA providing additional information and guidance supporting the existing Local Development Plan Policy 8. Any new proposals for LLA, amended LLA boundaries or Local Nature Conservation Sites will however be considered as material considerations at planning application stage.

<p>What are the key components of the plan?</p>	<p>The PG will provide guidance and detailed information to support the LDP policies by outlining the relevant requirements for developments for protecting the natural environment and contribute towards ensuring that developers contribute to the delivery of such opportunities.</p>
<p>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</p>	<p>The information contained in the Local Development Plan, as well as any relevant information in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, emerging Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance and emerging Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance have been subject to a minimum of Screening. In particular, the proposed Local Development Plan and Local Biodiversity Action Plan have been subject to a full SEA and therefore the majority of the content for the Planning Guidance has been considered in previous SEA work.</p>
<p>In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:</p>	<p>The Planning Guidance will, as mentioned, consolidate some of the content of other documents that have been produced for East Dunbartonshire, primarily the Local Development Plan. Other than this, the components that are known at this stage are a set of draft objectives. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update, improve usability and clarity of existing guidance. • Summarise Scottish Natural Heritage information on international and national nature conservation designations landscape character and Protected Species in or relevant to East Dunbartonshire. • Provide an overview of the importance of local nature conservation and Local Landscape Area (LLA) designations identified in the East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan Proposed Plan and Tree Preservation Orders in the area. • Summarise the findings of reviews of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Tree Preservation Orders to be a material consideration for development management. This information will inform the future review of the Local Development Plan, including its proposals map. • Set out guidance on up to date processes for site appraisal, ecological and landscape and visual impact surveys • Identify key considerations for a planning application to mitigate, enhance and manage its impact on the natural environment • Identify related licensing processes for development to consider: Protected Species, tree felling and invasive non-native species. • Refer to British Standards for Biodiversity and tree protection in development sites. • Provide contact details of professional organisations for landscape architects, ecologists and tree (arboriculture) consultants and contractors. <p>At this stage, the components known are the proposed objectives. Some of the objectives are unlikely to require screening at this stage as they will result in operational or best practice guidance being laid out within the document. However, initial proposals for the content identified that the Planning Guidance will include the findings of the LLA review, as well as past TPO surveys and the recent LNCS surveys. This will be in line with the following proposed objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the importance of local nature conservation and Local Landscape Area (LLA) designations identified in the East

Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan Proposed Plan and Tree Preservation Orders in the area.

- Summarise the findings of reviews of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Tree Preservation Orders to be a material consideration for development management. This information will inform the future review of the Local Development Plan, including its proposals map.

These objectives, including the inclusion of the LNCS, TPO and LLA reviews, are the components likely to require screening at this stage in the assessment.

**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		
<p>Objective 1 Provide an overview of the importance of local nature conservation and Local Landscape Area (LLA) designations identified in the East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan Proposed Plan and Tree Preservation Orders in the area.</p>	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	<p>Both of these objectives, as well as the inclusion of the LNCS and LLA reviews are likely to present indirect minor positive impacts on the environment, particularly in terms of the Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Material Assets and Landscape environmental factors. This overview of these natural environment reviews and surveys, as well as the relevant findings of the emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan, will provide additional information to that already outlined in the Local Development Plan and will be considered as part of material consideration for development proposals and guide the relevant interested parties, such as Development Management (EDC) and developers. It should be noted that, whilst there is the possibility that these reviews will result in positive impacts to the afore mentioned environmental factors, in addition to the requirements of the development plan, the impacts are unlikely to be significant and will not influence or result in changes to the Local Development Plan which will be the principal land development document for the local area.</p>	
<p>Objective 2 Summarise the findings of reviews of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Tree Preservation Orders to be a material consideration for development management. This information will inform the future review of the Local Development Plan, including its proposals map.</p>	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗		

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.)

The initial assessment of the proposed Natural Environment Planning Guidance (PG) identified the proposed objectives for the Guidance document including details of the planned LLA review, alongside the completed TPO and LNCS reviews. In general, the Natural Environment Planning Guidance will provide additional guidance, alongside other proposed Planning and Supplementary Guidance, to the Local Development Plan.

Although the initial screening identified that there is the possibility of minor positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets**, the effects to these environmental factors were not seen to be significant. Furthermore, the Planning Guidance will not be the primary driver for natural environment considerations as they relate to developments in East Dunbartonshire, although it will act as material consideration for development applications. The PG will provide guidance alongside other guidance documents by outlining the existing natural environmental requirements and highlighting the need to consider the outcomes of the LNCS, LLA and TPO reviews from a developer's perspective whilst not changing the content of the main Local Development Plan. This will contribute towards ensuring that developers contribute to the delivery of such opportunities.

Whilst it is anticipated that the PG will have a positive impact, to an extent, in terms of providing guidance for developers on the relevant opportunities, the overall environmental impacts of the document are unlikely 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.

Local Government and Communities Directorate
Planning and Architecture Division

T: 0131-244 7650 F: 0131-244 7555
E: Johnathan.Whittlestone@gov.scot
D: 1 August 2016



Lauren Hollas
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01206 Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Natural Environment Planning Guidance

Dear Lauren,

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 11 July 2016.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. For convenience I have set out, in the table below, their individual views on whether there is a likelihood of significant environmental effects.

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. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	No
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	No

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, 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 7650.

Yours sincerely

Johnathan Whittlestone
SEA Gateway Officer

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.gov.scot

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HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
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Our ref: LDP/EDUN
Our Case ID: 201601944
Your ref: 01206 - SCREENING
29 July 2016

Dear Ms Hollas

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
East Dunbartonshire Council - Natural Environmental Planning Guidance
Screening Report**

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 11 July 2016 regarding the above screening report. I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

My understanding is that this guidance will add detail and additional information in support of the relevant policies of the Local Development Plan (LDP). As the LDP (as well as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan) have been subject to assessment it is considered that the majority of the content of the guidance has previously been subject to assessment. Additionally to this the screening report considers the potential for significant effects on various proposed components of the guidance. I note that no such effects were identified for the historic environment. In light of this and the other information contained within the screening report I agree that the planning guidance in itself is unlikely to have significant effects on the historic environment.

However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of East Dunbartonshire Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the guidance requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

I hope this response has been helpful to you. Please feel welcome to contact me should you wish to discuss my comments in further detail.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Stevenson
Senior Heritage Management Officer (SEA)

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. SC045925
VAT No. GB 221 8680 15



Scottish Environment
Protection Agency

Buidheann Dion
Àrainneachd na h-Alba

Our ref: PCS/147907
SG ref: SEA/01208/Scr

If telephoning ask for:
Jess Taylor

21 July 2016

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Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.osi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Hollas

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Natural Environment Planning Guidance - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 11 July 2016.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the East Dunbartonshire Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment. To assist with this process we have produced [Standing Advice for Responsible Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Scoping Consultations](#).

We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#).

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation please do not hesitate to contact me on 01698 839000 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
Jess Taylor
Planning Officer



Chairman
Bob Downes
Chief Executive
Terry A'Hearn

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Scottish Natural Heritage

All of nature for all of Scotland

Lauren Hollas
Strategic Environmental Assessment Technical Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
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Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date: 29 July 2016
Our ref: CNS/SEA/SSEA/01206

Dear Ms Hollas

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Natural Environment Planning
Guidance
Screening Determination**

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 11 July 2016 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

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 significant effects on the environment.

We understand that the prime purpose of the plan is to support the implementation of the proposed East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan, in particular the delivery of Policy 5: Green Infrastructure and Green Network, Policy 8: Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation and Policy 9: Enhancing and Managing the Water Environment. Any significant environmental effects have been addressed within the Local Development Plan and there is no new information of significance within the Planning Guidance.

On this basis, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects. Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. 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 determination, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Cozzolino on 0141 951 0875 or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Kinnes
Operations Manager
Strathclyde & Ayrshire



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