

# **SCREENING REPORT**

## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

Box 1.  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

**Title of the plan:**

Box 2.  
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Core Paths Plan Review

**What prompted the plan:**

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

Box 3.  
The first LLTNPA Core Path Plan was adopted in 2010. There is no statutory review period for Core Paths Plans. A review is now considered to be required due to a number of factors as follows:

1. Some proposed core paths were never built and should be removed from the plan.
2. Some mapping errors need to be corrected to original alignments for Core Paths.
3. A number of new paths have been created since the adoption of the original Core Paths Plan in 2010. These new routes meet the criteria for consideration as Core Paths.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Box 4.  
Recreation, access and health; active travel and transport; tourism

**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)

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**Date:**

22 November 2018

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

Box 5.

The current LLTNPA Core Paths Plan was adopted in 2010 as a statutory requirement of Section 17 and 18 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The planned review of the Plan will be carried out in accordance with Section 20 of the Act inclusive of a 12 week formal public consultation period. There is no statutory time period for reviewing the Plan but we consider that there is now sufficient justification for the reasons mentioned above.

### Description of the Plan:

Box 6.

The LLTNPA adopted its first Core Paths Plan in June 2010 fulfilling its duty under section 17 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

The existing Core Paths Plan was prepared using specially designed and agreed selection criteria, and involved an extensive period of public consultation, community and partner engagement, mapping and assessment of paths and concluded with a Scottish Government Reporter's Unit hearing on the unwithdrawn objections which provides a recommendation to the Minister on whether to adopt or not.

The current network of core paths consists of 732km of cycle tracks, hill paths, historic routes, footways (pavements), forest tracks, short sections of quiet minor roads and off-road paths in towns, villages and wider countryside of the National Park.

The core path provision is largely centred around settlements where people live or places people visit and connecting paths both in and outside the National Park. Importance is placed on both the functional aspects associated with active travel and healthy choices; and recreational aspects that form an important part of our visitor experience, and promotion of the National Park's special qualities.

The current Plan incorporates a set of maps which show, at an appropriate scale, the Core Paths network in a local area based context. The review process will add proposed Candidate Core Paths (CCP) and proposed amendments to the existing network.

### What are the key components of the plan?

Box 7.

Review changes to the Plan will not change the nature of the Plan objectives and policies therefore this plan element will not require any further SEA assessment beyond that already carried out. The main focus of interest for screening will be the new proposed Core Paths and amended existing Core Paths shown on the various area maps.

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

Box 8.

A comprehensive SEA process was carried out for the current 2010 Plan. The Draft Environmental Report was subject to the same formal 12 week public consultation period for the Plan.

The original SEA was required as the Core Paths Plan could potentially have had a negative effect on the listed environmental factors of biodiversity, water quality, material assets, geology and soils arising from physical development of the paths. Generic management measures and mitigation were described within the Environmental Report for Core Paths deemed to have significant impact on the listed environmental factors and these management and mitigation measures were accepted and adopted by the Authority.

It is envisaged that the same management and mitigation measures can equally apply to the Core Paths Plan review. None of the proposed core paths will be new constructions.

It is considered that a further SEA is not required for the Plan Review given the limited magnitude of the review and the fact that a robust SEA framework already exists which can be easily applied to any new or amended Core Paths that arise from the review process.

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

Box 9.

New core paths called "additions" and "realignments".

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Box 10)**

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		
Amended existing Core Paths	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	Little overall impact as amendments are generally small scale relating to physical changes that have already taken place or rectification of mapping errors.	No expected significant impacts.
New Candidate Core Paths (CCPs)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	<p>Overall expected positive effects in terms of benefit to health, access to the outdoors, amenity and promotion of associated activities such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>All of the proposed additions have already been constructed and have undergone relevant environmental impact assessments through the planning process and other appropriate assessments. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Trossachs Path</li> <li>• Various sections of the Rob Roy Way</li> <li>• RSPB pathways in the Loch Lomond Reserve</li> <li>• Various sections of forest roads</li> </ul> <p>Core path designation of the paths</p>	Impacts have already been addressed by management and mitigation measures already devised for certain additions. With this in place any significant impacts are likely to be avoided.

											in itself is unlikely to result in negative impacts although path development/ improvements in the future may have possible negative impacts on biodiversity, water quality, material assets, geology and soils.	
Example: Revision of standards for replacement of windows	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	Potential for noise reduction, improved energy efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, likely effects for building owners/tenants and potential impacts on properties with value for cultural heritage.	Potential for significant effects identified, particularly given the national and human health focus of the proposal. Potential for significant cumulative effects (positive and negative) also noted for several topic areas, including human health.

#### 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.)

##### Box 11.

It is our view that there is unlikely to be significant environmental impacts resulting from the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Core Paths Plan Review. Appropriate environmental impact assessments have already been carried out for all proposed additional and realigned core paths as part of the planning process. For all other core paths, any negative impact resulting can be ameliorated by adopting the generic management and mitigation measures devised from the SEA for the original 2010 Plan.

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

## Completion guidance (Please delete before submission)

Link to SEA Guidance: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00432344.pdf>

Box 1	<p>Name of the organisation that is responsible for the plan.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The responsible Authority is any person, body or office holder exercising functions of a public Character. Where more than one authority is responsible for a plan they should reach an agreement as to who is responsible for the SEA. Where an agreement cannot be reached, the Scottish Ministers can make the determination (Extract from SEA Guidance: Glossary (Page 50)).</p>
Box 2	<p>Name of the plan.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The 2005 Act applies to plans which relate to matters of a public character. The term 'plan' within guidance also covers policy, programme and strategy (Extract from SEA Guidance: Glossary (Page 50)).</p>
Box 3	<p>In terms of screening, knowing why a plan is being produced is one of the key components in understanding whether the plan falls into Section 5(3) or 5(4) of the 2005 Act.</p>
Box 4	<p>The 2005 Act outlines the sectors as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town &amp; country planning and land use.</p>
Box 5	<p>As well as briefly describing what the plan is intended to do and how it will achieve it, it is important to outline whether the plan sits within a hierarchy and its relationships with other plans and policies.</p> <p>Schedule 2 part 1 of the 2005 Act details criteria relating to a plan setting a framework for projects and other activities, and influencing other plans including those in a hierarchy.</p> <p>In terms of screening for likely environmental effects, knowing the context of a plan and where it will sit in a hierarchy of other plans is a key component in understanding the likely scope and remit of the plan and where the most appropriate assessment should take place. The description of the context should build on the information provided for Box 3 and contain sufficient information to allow those reading the screening report to understand the role of the plan in the wider policy context. Brief descriptive information such the relationship of the plan with overarching policy, links with other plans, and the influence on and from overarching ambitions or objectives should be considerations. This type of information can help paint a clear screening picture and whether an SEA of the plan is suitable in the circumstances.</p>
Box 6	<p>The description of the plan being screened has to contain sufficient information to allow those reading the notification to understand the objectives of the plan and how the Responsible Authority aims to deliver them. This may differ between spatial plans, policy based plans and aspirational plans (or a mix of these). The description should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The focus and direction of the plans – Including the 'powers' it will have,</li></ul>

	<p>the direction, status and importance it may bring, the ‘targets’ it will set, the legislation it will initiate, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its spatial scope - i.e. will it be nationally, regionally or locally focused, will there be specific area, location or boundary outlined.</li> <li>• Its temporal scope – i.e. will it be introduced for a set period of time before the next iteration?</li> <li>• The individual components of the plan – Including policy areas and plan components that it will cover (e.g. the sectors covered in a plan, specific technologies that will be considered, any new restrictions to be introduced, or measures that could be considered intrinsic mitigations).</li> <li>• Any new powers the plan may be given or may give to other activities</li> <li>• The vision, objectives and aims of the plan where these are clear.</li> </ul> <p>It may also prove helpful to include other information in a summary, such as whether the plan is expected to improve or strengthen the current approach, the reason the plan is being prepared, who it would apply to and the timescale for delivery. This type of information should build upon that provided for Box 5 and can help paint a clear picture of whether screening is suitable in the circumstances.</p>
Box 7	<p>Information included in this section should clearly set out the components of the plan (e.g. policy areas covered or the relevant likely sections of the plan) and allow the reader to see which components of the plan are being considered in the screening process.</p>
Box 8	<p>Are you confident that all significant environmental effects arising from this plan have already been covered in earlier SEA work?</p> <p>Most plans sit in a wider policy hierarchy, influenced by and/or influencing other plans and policies within the hierarchy. In many cases, previous SEA work is likely to have been undertaken on other plans and policies, and these may be of relevance to the consideration of the likelihood of significant environment effects associated with the development of the plan.</p> <p>These assessments may have considered components of the plan, and in some cases, there may be the possibility of screening out certain components of a plan as these have been previously assessed (e.g. through SEA of an overarching policy, or assessment of a previous plan that includes several components duplicated within the current plan). It is essential to have full confidence that components have been previously assessed, to an appropriate level, prior to its removal from further consideration. Even a small deviation from previously assessed policy, changes in the sensitivity or knowledge of environmental receptors affected, and length of time since assessment are likely to result in the need for new assessment.</p> <p>Information included in this section should clearly identify the plan components and refer to the previous assessment work undertaken to demonstrate that they have been ‘captured’ in the SEA process in accordance with the requirements of the 2005 Act and the satisfaction of the Consultation Authorities.</p>



Box 9	Based upon the content of Boxes 7 and 8, this section should identify the components of the plan that require screening. These components can then be taken forward into the next section of the screening process.
Box 10	<p>Is the plan, and its components, likely to have potential interactions with the environment, either direct or indirectly?</p> <p>The next step in this approach is identifying the potential for interactions of the plan with the environment. A table such as that provided could aid in identifying the likely interactions of the policy and its components against each of the environmental topic areas set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. This step is aimed at helping Responsible Authorities to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the 2005 Act and transparency in reaching their conclusions of the screening process.</p> <p>Note that the Responsible Authority should refer to and, where appropriate, address the criteria outlined within Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act in determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. Therefore, it is recommended that the Responsible Authority consider the probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, magnitude and spatial extent of any potential effects; the cumulative and transboundary nature of effects; the value and vulnerability of the area(s) likely to be affected; and risk to human health and the environment; amongst others. Further explanation of the criteria detail in Sections 1(a) – 1(e) and 2(a) – 2(g) is provided in the Scottish Government’s SEA Guidance (Section 3.3: Making a Screening Determination, Available at <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/08/3355/3">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/08/3355/3</a>).</p> <p>Note the 2005 Act does not distinguish between positive and negative environmental effects and either, if significant, could trigger an SEA.</p>
Box 11	<p>Upon consideration of the previous sections, a Responsible Authority should make a finding on whether there is the likelihood of significant environmental effects associated with adoption of the plan.</p> <p>The information in this section should provide a summary of the likely interactions of the plan with the environment, and conclude whether the Responsible Authority consider that an SEA is required or not.</p> <p>If likely significant effects are identified by a Responsible Authority, then an SEA must be undertaken and the decision to do this advertised. The information presented at screening and Consultation Authority views on this can also help to inform the next stage of the SEA process (Scoping). Similarly, if no significant effects are identified a determination to that effect must be undertaken and then advertised.</p>