

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 Outdoor Recreation Plan 2

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

Box 3.
The previous Plan only ran until 2017 so this update will run to 2023 in line with strategic direction of the National Park Partnership Plan, there is no statutory obligation to update the plan but it was considered useful develop a new Plan to provide an up-to-date framework for access improvements across the National Park.

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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STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

Box 5.

The strategy provides a framework for the management, enhancement and promotion of non-vehicular outdoor access in the National Park. The strategy will update priorities and actions, informing future management and investment of outdoor access. This is the second Outdoor Recreation Plan to be produced. The first plan ran from 2012-2017

Description of the Plan:

Box 6.

The National Parks Outdoor Recreation Plan will set out priority initiatives which highlight specific areas of work with Delivery Partners. It would also have guiding delivery principles that would set out general approaches, demonstrating clear sets of values and intentions which can influence partnership moving forward. The Plan will also illustrate how it sits within the National Policy context and brings policies such as the National Performance Framework, Public Health Priorities, A More Active Scotland, National Walking Strategy, 2030 Active Travel Vision, Cycling Action Plan to life within the National Park context.

What are the key components of the plan?

Box 7.

The intention is that the updated plan would have a reduced number of priority actions from the existing action plan and would instead be focused on themes such as those outlined below. These could change once further work has been undertaken on drafting the Plan but early thinking on themes are set out below

a. A Park for All

Vision: The National Park is a landscape where barriers to active enjoyment are only natural and everyone feels welcome and confident.

b. Connecting Places

Vision: The National Park is a fully connected myriad of strategic paths and waterways to be explored and enjoyed.

c. Vibrant and Active Places

Vision: Each town and village is designed to allow residents, visitors and businesses to enjoy and promote active lifestyles.

d. Short Wow Experiences

Vision: The National Park maximises its natural assets and provides exceptional short outdoor activity experiences which inspire and excite.

e. Explore Further

Vision: The National Park offers progression within all types of activity beyond popular and busy hubs.

f. Happy and Active People

Vision: The National Park offers physical and mental health benefits to all who come into contact with the place and its people.

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

g. Coasts and Water

Vision: The National Park is renowned for exceptional coasts, lochs and rivers which are enjoyed and celebrated.

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 8.

A comprehensive SEA process was carried out for the previous Outdoor Recreation Plan which this less prescriptive Plan will build upon. Also the National Park Partnership Plan underwent SEA as did the Local Development Plan and Core Paths Plan. The national strategies and programmes listed above have also undergone SEA and this Plan will look to incorporate their actions at a National park context.

Box 9.

The entire Strategy has been screened

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

SEA Receptor	Assessment	Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
Climatic factors	positive	Effects are likely to be broadly neutral, potentially could be less people using vehicles as they are now able to use enhanced path networks using active travel modes for short trips	No significant effects but minor positive effects are likely
Local air quality	neutral	Effects are likely to be broadly neutral. Could be less people using vehicles and able to use enhanced path networks using active travel for short trips so improves air quality in town and villages	No significant effects
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	neutral	Whilst the Plan will not have detailed proposals it can seek to encourage improved management of potential conflicts between access and biodiversity at the project level to help ensure there are minimal impacts. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal will also be undertaken alongside this Plan to ensure no adverse effects on any European protected sites. Any proposals for new paths that come forward in line with the themes identified in the ORP are likely to require planning permission and will be considered against the policies in the LDP (which has already been subject to SEA)	No significant effects
Water	neutral	Effects are likely to be broadly neutral. Plan could promote more use of water for recreation but this should have any significant effects on the water environment	No significant effects
Soil	neutral	Effects likely to be neutral	No significant effects
Human Health	positive	The Outdoor Access Plan will seek to encourage more people to use the outdoors with increased walking and cycling promoted. A key theme will be health and targeting actions in areas where there are current health inequalities. The plan should help deliver a National Park where there are improved opportunities available to everyone to have a healthy, active lifestyle.	No significant effects but minor positive effects are likely
Material Assets	positive	The Plan should seek enhancements to high quality paths which will be positive to the material asset	No significant effects but minor positive effects are likely
Cultural Heritage	neutral	The Plan will promote responsible access to places of cultural and historic significance.	No significant effects

Landscape	neutral/positive	Potential opportunities exist to improve access to a variety of landscapes and townscapes via an enhanced path network. There is also potential to introduce landscape features which compliment, or add interest to, the setting.	No significant effects but minor positive effects are likely
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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.)

Box 11.

The role of the forthcoming Outdoor Recreation Plan is to replace the previous Outdoor Recreation Plan that was approved in 2007. It is currently proposed that the new Plan will take a thematic approach and will set out strategic priority initiatives for a wide range of outdoor access related issues however won't have detailed proposals or detailed strategic mapping and be a key document to attract funding, direct partnership working and outline guiding delivery principles.

The Plan will be informed by other policies, plans and strategies, all of which have undergone SEA including the National Park Partnership Plan, Local Development Plan and National Plans and Strategies such as the National Performance Framework, Public Health Priorities, A More Active Scotland, National Walking Strategy, 2030 Active Travel Vision, Cycling Action Plan to life within the National Park context. The style of the Outdoor Recreation Plan is likely to be high level and is not intended to specify detailed projects. Instead be a Plan which sets out Priority Initiatives and Guiding Principles under key themes. Detailed proposals such as new paths that come forward at a project level that align with a theme identified in the ORP are likely to require planning permission and would be considered against the policies in the LDP (which has already been subject to SEA). In addition, regardless of the need for SEA, the National Park Authority is required to meet the 4 aims identified under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and this will also ensure that proposals that result from the Outdoor Recreation Plan will be considered against the aims of the National Park and prevent adverse impacts.

Following the assessment outlined above it was determined that the Outdoor Recreation Plan will have no significant environment effects. For this reason a Strategic Environmental Assessment 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.

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>Note: 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>Note: 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 & 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"> • The focus and direction of the plans – Including the ‘powers’ it will have, the direction, status and importance it may bring, the ‘targets’ it will set, the legislation it will initiate, etc. • Its spatial scope - i.e. will it be nationally, regionally or locally focused, will there be specific area, location or boundary outlined. • Its temporal scope – i.e. will it be introduced for a set period of time before the next iteration? • 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). • Any new powers the plan may be given or may give to other activities • The vision, objectives and aims of the plan where these are clear. <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	<p>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.</p>
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 http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/08/3355/3).</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>