

Strategic Environmental Assessment SCREENING REPORT

Planning Guidance

Sustainable and Active Travel

Safeguarding local facilities

Visitor Experience Update

November 2021

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

Title of the plans:

- Sustainable and Active Travel Planning Guidance
- Safeguarding Important Local Facilities and Businesses Planning Guidance
- Visitor Experience Planning Guidance

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

There is no legislative requirement to prepare the guidance. It was prompted to give the need for more detailed guidance on these subject areas context of the Local Development Plan and National Park Partnership Plan. The Local Development Plan becomes out of date in 2021 and the guidance have been developed to keep the plan current and relevant as an interim step prior to preparing the new Local Development Plan.

Plan subject:
(e.g. transport)

Planning - 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)

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STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance – prepared to supplement the Transport Policies 2 and 3 of the Local Development Plan to provide clarity on how an applicant can meet these policies. This is to ensure consistency across decision making and policy interpretation.

Safeguarding Local Facilities and Businesses Guidance – prepared to supplement all the retail, visitor experience, community, retail, economic development policies, within the Local Development Plan, that seek to safeguarding these local uses. This is to ensure consistency for applicants in the level of detail that should be submitted with a change of use application and gives clarity on what policies apply to each change of use application.

Revised Visitor Experience Guidance – prepared as an update in relation to car park design guidance and visitor facilities in light of a recent upsurge in applications for these types of uses. Again to provide clarity on how to apply the Visitor Experience Policy within the Local Development Plan.

Description of the Plan:

Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance – Guidance on how to apply Transport Policies 2 and 3 of the Local Development Plan 2017-2021.

Safeguarding Local Facilities and Businesses Guidance – Guidance on how to apply safeguarding policies of the Local Development Plan 2017-2021.

Revised Visitor Experience Guidance – Guidance on how to apply Visitor Experience Policy 1 of the Local Development Plan 2017-2021 in relation to car parks and visitor facilities.

What are the key components of the plan?

Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance – What is active and sustainable travel? How a proposal can make a positive contribution to sustainable and active travel? Transport Assessment and Travel Plan Guide.

Safeguarding Local Facilities and Businesses Guidance – Why safeguard uses? When is change of use application required? Supporting information requirements.

Revised Visitor Experience Guidance – Definition of small scale as applied to new car parks, design criteria for new car parks and visitor centres.Box 7

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

Yes, the National Park Partnership Plan and Local Development Plan underwent SEA. The guidance will look to provide further clarity and interpretation on the existing policies.

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

Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance - All sections of the Active and Sustainable Travel Guidance excluding the introduction and purpose as the guidance relates to the development of land.

Safeguarding Local Facilities and Businesses Guidance - It is not envisaged that there would be any positive or negative environmental impacts from these proposals. Proposals relate to the change of use of existing buildings and do not result in any built development. **Therefore this guidance does not require to be screened.**

Visitor Experience Guidance revised sections – as the guidance relates to the development of land.

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

Sustainable and Active Travel Guidance

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		
How a proposal can make a positive contribution to sustainable and active travel? And Transport Assessment and Travel Plans and Travel Plan Guide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	The increase in sustainable and active travel measures is going to positive environmental effects in terms of benefits reduction of CO2 emissions and other emissions from vehicles. There is potential for some for adverse environmental impacts from building any new active travel routes. Travel plans should also influence behaviour and have the same positive impacts. Travel Plans and Transport Assessments will not result in any built development so no other effects envisaged.	The impacts on the climate is positive and not considered to be significant as the new sustainable and active travel will only relate to new development in the National Park (which is fairly limited). The number of new active routes that would be on greenfield land would also be low. Most improvements will be to existing active travel routes. Any proposal would be assessed against the Local Development Plan which has been subject to a full SEA. The guidance only provides further clarity over how to apply the existing policies.

Visitor Experience Guidance - Revised

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		
Definition of small-scale as it relates to car parks and visitor facilities and also new design criteria for car parks.	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	The update to the guidance may have minor negative and positive environmental impacts to the topics listed as it relates to the development of new visitor facilities and car parks. The negative impacts would be from building on greenfield land and the positive impacts are from the design criteria that encourages protection of the environment.	The impacts from any visitor facility or car park would be assessed against the Local Development Plan which has been subject to a full SEA. The guidance only provides further clarity over how to apply the existing policies.

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 Planning Guidance will provide clarity and further guidance on the existing policies, all of which have been assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the current Local Development Plan.

Following the assessment outlined above it was determined that all the new and revised Planning Guidance will have no significant environment effects. For this reason a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required and it can be screened out.

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,

	<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"> • 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	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 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>