

# SCREENING REPORT



## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

Perth & Kinross Council

**Title of the plan:**

Landscape Supplementary Guidance

**What prompted the plan:**

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

[The Landscape SG \(the Guidance\)](#) was produced in 2015 pursuant to an undertaking in Local Development Plan (LDP1) policy ER6 to provide guidance on Local Landscape Areas. The Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP2) will replace LDP1 and contains a specific policy on Local Landscape Areas (Policy 36C). Minor modifications will be made to the guidance to update references to the new policy.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Town & Country Planning

**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:**

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## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

Scottish Planning Policy (2014) para 195-196 requires Planning Authorities to identify local designations for their landscape value. This was realised in the 2015 Guidance pursuant to a more general Landscape Policy ER6 in LDP1. LDP2 Policy 36C now sets out a specific policy for Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) which refers to the special character or qualities of the designations and the Guidance. The Guidance sets out those qualities of the LLAs. LLAs are identified in Strategy Map 4.

The Guidance will be adopted as Statutory Guidance to LDP2 and sit within the hierarchy of the development plan including TAYplan, the relevant strategic development plan.

Minor modifications will be required to update the references to LDP2 and to reflect the terminology from Special Landscape Areas to LLAs.

### Description of the Plan:

The Guidance provides the detail required by the Policy by setting out a description of the LLA (statement of significance) and its identified special qualities, along with objectives for development. The Policy states that reference should be made to the Guidance and these three elements to determine the potential impacts of a development. The Guidance contains:

- Background to policy and the identification of the LLAs
- For each LLA:
  - o A map with the boundary
  - o A statement of significance and Special Qualities of the LLA
  - o Forces for Change
  - o Objectives

The statement of significance, special qualities allow applicants and development management to assess the impact on an LLA. The objectives provide further context as to desired specific landscape future outcomes for the LLA.

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

- Statements of Significance and Special Qualities for each LLA
- Objectives of each LLA

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

The Guidance in its entirety has previously been screened for SEA in 2015 which determined that an SEA was not necessary. The Policy has been considered in the Environmental Report for LDP2 as part of the overall Environment and Conservation Policy 36 which includes natural heritage designations. The overall policy was found to have a significant overall beneficial effect. The LLA policy however has a more limited application. The Environmental Report notes that protecting sites of local landscape value will ensure that development proposals will not give rise to any significant adverse impacts on their qualifying landscape interests. Policy 36C can be seen as a localised expression of Policy 37 which covers the general approach to protecting and enhancing landscapes. Policy 37 in LDP2 was found to have significant positive environmental effects overall.

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

- Statements of Significance and Special Qualities for each LLA
- Objectives of each LLA

**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		
Statements of Significance and Special Qualities									✓		Potential for positive environmental effects by ensuring that development proposals within the LLAs are fully informed.	The Guidance itself has limited significant impact on the landscape as it simply provides detail on the expression of policy 36C and 37..
Objectives	✓	✓							✓		Objectives include potential for positive effects on biodiversity, population and the landscape by setting out objectives of native woodland expansion, promoting awareness and recreation, and maintaining and enhancing the current landscape.	The objectives provide further detail on policies 36C and Policy 37 - which includes enhancement of landscape and enhancement of specific elements of the landscape - and the effects are therefore not likely to be significant over the effect of the policies themselves.

**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 Landscape Supplementary Guidance will not have a limited positive impact on the environment as it provides detailed information to inform policy 36C and policy 37. The Guidance, bar minor wording amendments, has been screened previously, and the Policies which it informs have been fully assessed in the Environmental Report for LDP2. A strategic Environmental Report is not considered necessary.

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>