



Scottish Natural Heritage

All of nature for all of Scotland

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005:
CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL, LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY
00453 - SCOPING REPORT**

Dear Ms Deans

I refer to your scoping report, sent to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 14 October 2009. In our roll as a Consultation Authority, in accordance with Section 15(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, we have reviewed the above report. Our comments on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report and on the duration of the proposed consultation period are set out below.

Scope of assessment and level of detail

Subject to the specific comments set out below SNH is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report.

Plan, Programme or Strategy Context

This should include National Planning Framework 2 which covers various relevant national transport related projects such as the Forth Replacement Crossing, the Grangemouth Freight Hub and Rosyth International Container Terminal, as well as the proposed Central Scotland Green Network.

Scoping of SEA issues

Landscape – the scoping report states that there are no proposals at present for significant new infrastructure and it is therefore unlikely that transport will have a significant impact on landscape. However, the management and enhancement of transport routes could have a significant effect on the development of landscaped green corridors forming part of a wider green network. As such there is the potential to benefit landscape and we therefore suggest that this topic is therefore retained within the scope of the SEA.

Appendix C: SEA Objectives

Biodiversity – the LTS should also aim to enhance biodiversity, principally through the integrated management of green transport corridors.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Additional topics to be addressed

Green Networks

The Clackmannanshire area is within the Central Scotland Green Network which is being developed as part of National Planning Framework 2. There is no mention of green networks in this SEA Scoping Report. The LTS should seek to avoid damage to green networks and to enhance them when possible. This should be reflected in all relevant parts of the Environmental Report. Green networks can contribute to:

- the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, particularly outwith protected areas;
- the protection and enhancement of the landscape;
- and to the enhancement of human health through the creation an attractive green environment for non-motorised transport.

Monitoring

The Environmental Report should address the issue of monitoring of SEA Objectives.

Consultation period

SNH notes that a consultation period for the Environmental Report is proposed to start in December 2009 for a period of eight weeks. SNH is content with the length of this consultation period.

Concluding remarks

I hope that these points are of assistance to you. Please note that this response is in the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and our role as a Consultation Authority. We understand that we will be consulted separately on our views regarding the Environmental Report and the Strategy.

Yours sincerely

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