

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Clackmannanshire Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects *or*
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects *or*
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 5

- None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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.....
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PART 6

Contact name

Martin Dean

Job Title

Access and Countryside Projects Officer

Contact address

Clackmannanshire Council
Kilncraigs
Greenside Street
Alloa
FK10 1EB

Contact tel no

01259 452409

Contact email

mdean@clacks.gov.uk

PART 7

Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable)



Date

25 June 2007

**Summary of nature/
content of PPS**

The Core Paths Plan will comprise:

- Map or maps of the core paths system
- List of designated core paths
- Supporting text

**Are there any proposed
PPS objectives?**

YES

NO

Copy of objectives attached

YES

NO

Date

25 June 2007

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan</div> RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Clackmannanshire Council</div>		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The scale of the projects associated with the plan is likely to be minimal. Many of the likely core paths already exist as public routes.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	Uncertain	The Core Paths Plan has linkages with the Access Strategy, Local Plan, the Local Transport Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Uncertain	The Core Paths Plan will contribute to sustainable development by creating paths which will provide opportunities for non-motorised transport, physical activity and recreation, social inclusion and economic development.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(d) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	Uncertain	The Core Paths Plan facilitates responsible access. Despite this however, there is the potential for some disturbance to natural and cultural heritage.
1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	No	The Plan is not thought to implement any Community legislation.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Uncertain	The environmental effects are unlikely to be significant given the linear nature of paths, the likely density of the network and the likely levels of use. There is the potential for some damage to the natural and cultural heritage from improvements to paths and from the public's use of them, but it is considered that such effects are reversible.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	Uncertain	The extent of the core path network and of levels of use are unknown, making it difficult to anticipate the cumulative nature of the effects.
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	There will be no transboundary effects.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example,	No	The implementation of the Core Paths Plan is unlikely to pose any risks to human health or the environment.

due to accidents)		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The Core Paths Plan will have an impact throughout Clackmannanshire but the magnitude of this is likely to be very small.
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	Uncertain No No	There is potential for disturbance to habitats and species and to areas of cultural heritage through path works and increased usage. Such effects are considered unlikely. Such effects are considered unlikely.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Uncertain	Many of the likely core paths already exist and are therefore unlikely to affect such areas and landscapes. There is however the potential for environmental effects on designated sites brought about by increased path use.

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Part One of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 establishes a statutory right of responsible access to most land and inland water.

Section 17 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to prepare a core path plan “sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area.”

When implemented the core paths network will provide routes which should help minimise disturbance to the environment and land management interests.

It is anticipated that the Core Paths Plan will contribute to the sustainability agenda by providing opportunities for non-motorised transport, physical activity, social inclusion and local economic development.

The potential exists for damage and disturbance to the natural and cultural heritage from the creation and management of paths and from changes in the way in which the public take access.

