



We safeguard the nation's historic environment and promote its understanding and enjoyment

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Our ref: AMN/23/207/JLC
Your ref:

2 August 2007

Dear Mr Dean

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Clackmannanshire Council Core Paths Plan: Screening Report**

I refer to the above screening report, received by the Scottish Executive's SEA Gateway on 5 July 2007.

I have reviewed the screening report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so, I have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

My understanding from the screening report is that the Core Paths Plan will provide a framework of core path routes for public access throughout the Clackmannanshire Council area. I note that it is your view that the Core Paths Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and in light of the information contained in the report I agree that the plan may have significant effects on the historic environment. Simply for information, I have provided a list in the annex to this letter of some of the potential impacts on the historic environment that may arise from activities associated with recreation and access.

As you will be aware it is the responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the plan requires environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly. Should you determine that environmental assessment of the Core Paths Plan is required, I draw your attention to the information requirements set out in Schedule 3 of the Act and to the Scottish Executive SEA Tool Kit (available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0>).

I note that you may also be undertaking an SEA of the Outdoor Access Strategy, and suggest that you may wish to streamline this work with the assessment of the Core Paths

Plan to avoid duplication of effort. I would be happy to discuss this further if you would find it helpful.

Please note that this response is solely in the context of the SEA Act and our role as a Consultation Authority. Historic Scotland will respond separately to consultations on the Core Paths Plan and, for information, these should be addressed to Miriam McIver, Development Assessment Team, Room E3, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH.

Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Craig (0131 668 8832). If making contacting via email please do so through HS's SEA gateway at HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Amanda Chisholm
Strategic Environmental Assessment Team Leader

Annex: Historic environment issues

Simply for information, the Core Paths Plan has the potential to affect the historic environment both as a result of improvements and through increased use of existing paths. Improvement may result in effects on the setting and characteristics of historic environment features, scheduled monuments for example. Increased access to historic environment features, while beneficial for the public, may need some form of control to prevent damage e.g. from erosion. For information, I have set out below some of potential impacts on the historic environment that may arise from activities associated with recreation and access:

- creation of new paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- widening of existing paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- upgrading and/or maintaining existing paths e.g. bridges, culverts, fences, handrails, benches may have implications for listed buildings and their setting as well as the setting of archaeological sites. Works on listed structures such as bridges are likely to require listed building consent.
- erection of new buildings/facilities may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- refurbishment of existing buildings may have positive effects if done appropriately
- erection of signs or interpretation boards may have implications for the setting of archaeological sites and/or listed features
- management of vegetation on or nearby paths may affect archaeological sites
- in general, increased human access may result in erosion of monuments and/or of vulnerable elements of historic landscapes

