

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 1**

To: [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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:

Glasgow Core Path Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Glasgow City 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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.....

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 6**

**Contact name**

Gillian Dick

**Job Title**

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**PART 7**

**Signature**  
(electronic  
signature  
is acceptable)



**Date**

27/07/07

**SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS**

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Glasgow City Council
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Glasgow Core Paths Plan
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	Draw up a plan for a system of paths (core paths) sufficient for giving the public reasonable access throughout their area
<b>What prompted the PPS</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
<b>Subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Core Paths Plan
<b>Period covered by PPS</b>	2007 - 2012
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	Every 5 years
<b>Area covered by PPS</b> (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The Glasgow City Council administrative area. Please see enclosed consultative draft core paths plan.
<b>Summary of nature/content of PPS</b>	Provide a plan that will form the basic network of paths around Glasgow, and will link into and support the wider network of other paths that already exist around the city.
<b>Are there any proposed PPS objectives?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Date</b>	Consultative plan containing objectives launched May 2007

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

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

**TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

<b>TITLE OF PPS</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Glasgow Core Path Plan</div> <b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Glasgow City Council</div>		
<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	<b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  YES/NO	<b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b>
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	Yes	The framework for key routes within Glasgow will be set by the Core Path Plan (CPP). The plan will include existing routes and proposed aspirational routes which will be seen as key implementation projects. The locations of the paths are identified within the plan and it will be used as a planning and bidding document. CPP projects are likely to be integrated into other larger projects.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	Yes	The CPP will have an influence on the proposed greenspace strategy and audit; the next iterations of the City Plan, Local Transport Strategy, Outdoor Access Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan, Landscape Strategy and Local Development strategies throughout the city. It will also link into the work of the City Woodland Unit, Culture Sport Glasgow and the main service deliverers within the Council when developing future policy and strategy.

<p>1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The CPP, by its very nature, will promote sustainable development as it will provide and protect routes that are used for sustainable transport i.e.: walking, cycling, and non motorised transport on water. It will provide social sustainability by catering for users of all abilities and types. It will help towards the council's social inclusion objectives by connecting people and places in a sustainable way and will encourage community involvement in the Core Path planning process.</p> <p>By providing increased opportunities for walking, cycling, riding and other non motorised forms of transport to be used for leisure and active travel it will help to reduce the cities carbon footprint and can be used to raise awareness of climate change issues. The plan will also support social and economic regeneration, healthy living initiatives and provide an opportunity to support healthy urban planning linking into the aspirations of the Centre for Population Health.</p> <p>The development of path networks can have a positive economic benefit as paths attract both local residents and tourists if they are well designed and people feel safe and comfortable using them. A good path network , linking quality greenspaces provides opportunities to help attract inward investment from the business community who are looking for good environments in which to develop with sustainable transport links that can feed into green transport plans and sustainable impact assessments of development proposals.</p>
<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(d) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Core Path Plan could have both a negative and positive environmental impacts. The creation of a path may bring increased number of people into an area. This could potentially increase pressure on the biodiversity within an area by disturbing wildlife and increasing the risk of habitat degradation, especially within fragile areas. There could also be an increase in litter, noise and anti social behaviour. However,</p>

		<p>good well designed paths and greenspace can encourage people to care for, respect and look after their environment. This is particularly evident if there has been a good level of community involvement and buy in and local people identify with and feel ownership of particular areas and paths. The plan provides an opportunity to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of the greenspaces within the city. The aspirations of the citizens of the city to live within a high quality environment can be tapped into and raised awareness of biodiversity and climate change issues can provide positive benefits. There are positive health benefits to be gained by providing a well designed network of paths. By introducing the right habitats and biodiversity within the routes it can help to improve air quality, provide a level of carbon offset and increase the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Core Path Plan will be integrated with sustainable urban drainage plans, sustainable transport, air quality improvements, community regeneration, community safety plans and therefore will be a vehicle for implementing other legislation.</p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Effective access planning and management should reduce or avoid the impacts on biodiversity (both wildlife and habitat). There is a role for the CPP in ensuring that when routes are identified that they avoid the most sensitive areas or mitigate against any environmental impact. The probability, duration and frequency of environmental impact will have to be considered both within the development management process (where we are asking developers to provide paths) and within the project management process (where we are providing paths ourselves) and where we are maintaining, rerouting and upgrading existing paths.</p>
<p>2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The development of a path network can have a cumulative impact on the environment. Landscape, topography, geology and other physical characteristics of the sites may be</p>

		<p>altered. Access along rivers and through greenspaces may disturb existing eco systems, especially if the paths are badly designed. When path quality and design is inappropriate for the levels and types of use erosion can occur which can alter and damage the landscape and biodiversity.</p> <p>Where there is evidence of anti social behaviour such as littering, noise etc it tends to encourage the further development of these activities. If the paths are well designed, managed and attractive environments this will encourage ownership and usage which should discourage anti social behaviour. Increase litter can affect the aesthetics of the sites and harm wildlife. It should also be noted that users of the path networks can unintentionally introduce non-indigenous flora and fauna, including micro-organisms, which can affect soil formation and displace or harm native flora and fauna.</p> <p>Repeated use of desire lines created beside paths can affect grasses, mosses and lichens and can impact on the abundance and productivity of the vegetation and its ability to regenerate. The creation of desire lines, crushes habitat underfoot, compacts the soil and can create localised drainage problems, which may create further erosion problems. This can lead to a change in species composition and increased vulnerability to invasion by non-native species.</p> <p>Glasgow has an extensive network of old mine workings, which can cause paths to subside, especially if people don't follow the designed route or use modes of transport for which the path was not designed.</p> <p>Users of paths and greenspaces can accidentally disturb nesting sites and burrows belonging to birds and small mammals. This may cause abandonment of sites or the young within the nests and</p>
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		<p>burrows.</p> <p>Water based activities can increase wash with a river or canal which could increase river bank erosion. Littering can block dams and over flow pipes, which could cause flooding, and a decrease in the water quality. This in turn could impact on the eco system of the river or canal.</p>
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	The Glasgow CPP has to link into the CPP's of the neighbouring authorities, but is not transboundary in an international sense.
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	Yes	There will be a significant positive impact on human health if the CPP is implemented properly. Good quality access to quality greenspaces and paths will encourage people to use areas of natural and scenic beauty; exercise more and connects to art, sports and heritage with clear physical and mental health benefits. It should be noted though that poorly designed and badly constructed paths may result in injuries, increased anti social behaviour and reduced access into open spaces.

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)
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<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b> <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The adoption of the CPP will have significant positive effects and will provide opportunities for all aspects of the population. The CPP covers all communities within the Glasgow City Council administrative boundary and connects with our neighbouring authorities Core Path Plans. The development of the plan will help to manage access in a positive way, which will help to limit the negative impacts.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The CPP process will ensure that demand is balanced with the need to protect the environment. It is likely to have significant positive effects by providing a means with which to manage responsible access to certain sites and to increase sustainable movement around the city. It will link Glasgow's communities, greenspaces and sites that are subject to environmental designations.</p>

<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b> <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Core Paths can be used as a tool to manage responsible access to sites that have an environmental designation. The numbers using particular areas may increase as result of the CPP and this may have significant impacts on the environment.</p>

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

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

**TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

The Glasgow Core Path Plan aims:

- To connect homes with workplaces, schools, parks, greenspaces, neighbouring communities and the wider countryside.
- Form a safe framework for sustainable travel and informal outdoor recreation.
- Improve the quality of life of Glasgow's residents and visitors, and
- Help make Glasgow a healthier, more sustainable city.

Core Paths will form the basic network of paths around Glasgow, and will link and support the wider network of other paths that already exist around the city.

It is recognised that good path networks can contribute to better health by encouraging people to take more exercise as well as helping to encourage people to move to live or work in the city, supporting tourism and other economic activities. Good path networks are an important part of a high quality environment and could help to reduce the volume of traffic on the roads by encouraging people to make short journeys sustainable.

The CPP will set the framework for the development of priority access projects. The plan will link into other strategies and plans.

As has been noted the development of outdoor access can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment. The CPP will address this by providing a means to prioritise management and access and encourage the positive impacts.

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**TABLE 3  
SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

### SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 2

It is not a statutory requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

#### TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

#### RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

#### DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

Consultation Authority	Views (if known at this stage)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. soil and water)
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION**

### SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 3

It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

#### TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)

#### RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

<b>1</b> Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is</u> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		
<b>2</b> Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is not</u> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		
<b>3</b> Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		
<b>4</b> Scottish Ministers' determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>  <input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		
<b>5</b> Publicity requirements met	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>YES</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>NO</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>6</b> Signature	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		
Date	<input style="width: 100%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>		

