

Gillian Dick
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Our ref: AMN/23/222/RJC
Your ref:

24 August 2007

Dear Ms Dick

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Glasgow City Council Core Paths Plan: Screening Report

I refer to the above screening report, received by the Scottish Executive's SEA Gateway on 27 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 plan will provide a basic network of paths around Glasgow, that will also link into and support the wider network of other paths that already exists around the city. I note that it is your view that the Glasgow 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. Please note that effects can be both positive and negative. 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 Glasgow City 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 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>).

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. I note that Historic Scotland has received the Consultative Draft of the Glasgow Core Paths Plan. Historic Scotland's comments on the plan will be provided under separate cover.

Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact Rosalind Campbell (0131 668 8575). If making contacting via email please do so through HS's SEA gateway at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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:

- 1 creation of new paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- 2 widening of existing paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- 3 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.
- 4 erection of new buildings/facilities may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- 5 refurbishment of existing buildings may have positive effects if done appropriately
- 6 erection of signs or interpretation boards may have implications for the setting of archaeological sites and/or listed features
- 7 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

Gillian Dick
Principal Landscape & Environment Officer
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21 August 2007

By email: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Gillian,

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005
GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL CORE PATH PLAN- SCREENING REPORT**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 27 July 2007 via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway in respect of the above Plan.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005, SEPA has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

SEPA has reviewed the Screening Report and Glasgow Core Paths Plan, Consultative Draft, from the draft plan it would appear that a number of the proposed core paths are on sites where previous uses may have resulted in land contamination. SEPA considers that this aspect has the **potential** to have significant environmental effects (more specifically on the water environment and human health during the construction phase) and therefore agrees with the Council that Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required.

While the adverse impacts on the environment and proposed mitigation will be assessed in the environmental report to be prepared, the Council will also wish to highlight any benefits which may accrue from the plan e.g. in reducing potential environmental effects of land subject to contamination and opportunities for habitat enhancement.

Please note, while SEPA considers that significant environmental effects may result from the plan, it is the responsibility of Glasgow City Council as the SEA Responsible Authority to formally determine whether the plan requires SEA under Section 10 of the Act.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. Further information about this stage and what should be included in a Scoping Report can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish Executive SEA Tool Kit available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01355 574 302 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Lorna Maclean
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)

Ms Gillian N Dick
Principal Landscape & Environment
Development & Regeneration Services
Glasgow City Council
229-231 George Street
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Our ref: PF 096/07-08

8 August 2007

Dear Gillian

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Glasgow Core Path Plan Screening Report – Screening Determination

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 27 July 2007 via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

In accordance with Part 1 Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

SNH's view in respect of each of these criteria is set out in the Annex attached. Accordingly, SNH agrees that the above Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. The Annex also provides a list of information that it would be helpful for SNH to receive at the scoping stage.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. SNH cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Geoff Atkins on geoff.atkins@snh.gov.uk or via SNH's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Arthur Keller

ARTHUR KELLER
Operations Manager
Strathclyde & Ayrshire

Copy to: HS Gateway, SEPA Gateway, SNH Gateway



SCHEDULE 2

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Schedule 2 Criteria	Part 1 Section 8(1) determination - Are significant environmental effects likely ? <i>(Responsible Authority's assessment)</i>	SNH's Assessment under Part 1 Section 9(3) Yes/No/Unknown	SNH's Comments And Additional Information
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard , in particular to:			
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	Yes	Yes	SE guidance on core paths plans limits the inclusion of aspirational routes to those that can be achieved within 1-2 years.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	Yes	Yes	The Plan will also contribute to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network which is a strategic priority within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Yes	Yes	The Plan will promote sustainable travel throughout the City and provide a more inclusive path network for all residents. The Plan will also link countryside and greenspace to residential areas as well as providing recreational opportunities.

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	Yes	Yes	The Plan has the potential to increase disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats. However a large proportion of the network will use existing paths. Increased activity may inhibit damage through litter and vandalism. The main problems may arise with aspirational routes.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection);	Yes	No	The Plan is not relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation. However there could be local effects that need addressing under existing Directives.
2. <i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -</i>			
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	Yes	Yes	The Plan is intended to encourage people to access the outdoors and the countryside on a more regular basis.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	Yes	Yes	The network proposed by the Plan could introduce negative effects in local areas. Although the total network services a large area the footprint is relatively small.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects (<i>in UK international cases</i>);	No	No	Not applicable.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents);	Yes	No	The risks presented by the Plan are low. The benefits will far outweigh any negative effects.

(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	Yes	Yes	The Plan will service an area of 17,600 ha. with a population of 612,000. In addition, a significant proportion of the population regularly travel between (six) neighbouring authorities for work and recreation.
(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; and	No	No	The total area is not particularly vulnerable. There are a few sites with environmental designations (5 SSSIs and 12 LNRs, existing and proposed including extensions) but not all will be affected by the Plan.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	Yes	Yes	There are a small number of natural heritage areas with a national designation. New or aspirational paths in special places (e.g. Bishop Loch) must take account of the protection.

Comments on information needed at the Scoping Stage

In making scoping requests, Responsible Authorities are encouraged to provide the following information:-

1. Context

a The Plan

- Plan name, area covered, period covered, timescales for preparation
- Legal requirement for plan
- Plan purpose, subject and proposed objectives
- Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

b) **The Area**

- Summary of existing environmental problems in the area/sector covered by the plan or programme and relevant aspects of the current state of the environment
- Summary of likely future changes to environment without the plan
- Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the plan or programme
- Relationship with existing environmental objectives relevant to the plan or programme. These may be European objectives set by Directives, national objectives set by legislation or policy or they may be local/regional objectives

2. Scope

a) **Scope and Level of Detail**

- Summary of the environmental issues to be considered in the Environmental Report with justifications
- Summary of any environmental issues not to be considered in the Environmental Report with justifications
- Summary of the proposed level of detail of assessment – e.g. will the assessment focus on very detailed policies in the plan, or just strategic objectives?

b) **Alternatives & Mitigation**

- Where possible, a summary of intended approach to assessing alternatives (e.g. type and scale of alternatives that may be assessed)
- Where possible, the proposed approach for identification of mitigation

3. Methods

a) **Assessment Method**

- A brief summary of the proposed approach to the assessment which might include:
 - Summary of existing work to date
 - Proposed (draft) SEA objectives
 - Proposed approach to assessment including use of SEA objectives
 - Proposed (draft) indicators

4. Next Steps

a) **Consultation**

- Proposed consultation period for the Environmental Report

Planning Directorate

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24 August 2007

00214 Screening - Glasgow City Council - Core Path Plan

Dear Gillian

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 27 July 2007.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. For convenience I have set out in the table below their individual views on whether there is a likelihood of significant environmental effects. I have also attached copies of the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions. Where possible the Consultation Authorities have offered supplementary information and advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Scotland	Yes
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	Yes

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.

You should note, as per Section 10 of the Act, within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 1704.

Yours sincerely

Elaine McCall
SEA Gateway Officer