

## SEA Screening Report – Cover Note

### Cover Note Section 1

To: [SEA.gateway@scotland.gis.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gis.gov.uk)  
Or  
William Carling, SEA Gateway Manager  
SEA Gateway  
Scottish Executive  
Area 1 H (Bridge)  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

### Cover Note Section 2

<b>An SEA screening report is attached for the plan entitled:</b>	Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Farm Development
<b>The Responsible Authority is:</b>	North Ayrshire Council

### Cover Note Section 3

Screening is required because the plan/programme falls under Section 5(3)(c) or Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that: -

**An SEA is not required** because the plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects

### Cover Note Section 6

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Andrew McNair
<b>Job Title:</b>	Planning Officer
<b>Contact Address:</b>	Development Plans North Ayrshire Council Cunninghame House Irvine KA12 8EE
<b>Contact Tel. No:</b>	01294 324769
<b>Contact e-mail:</b>	amcnair@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

### Cover Note Section 7

**Signature:**

Andrew McNair

**Date:**

11 December 2013

## SEA Screening Report

### SEA Screening Report Section 1: Key Facts

<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
<b>Title of Plan:</b>	Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Farm Development.
<b>Plan purpose:</b>	The purpose of this guidance is to provide developers with greater clarity regarding areas where certain types of wind turbine development are likely to be acceptable - and likewise where they are not - and to provide further explanation regarding the policy criteria against which such development will be assessed.
<b>What prompted the plan:</b>	It was an administrative decision of North, East and South Ayrshire Councils to compile the guidance.
<b>Plan subject:</b>	Wind turbine development and land-use planning.
<b>Period covered by plan:</b>	February 2009 onwards.
<b>Frequency of plan updates:</b>	The guidance will be reviewed as and when necessary.
<b>Plan area:</b>	The guidance covers the entire geographical area of North Ayrshire, supplementing the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan.
<b>Summary of nature/content of the Plan:</b>	The guidance contains an introduction, a policy context, constraint maps and a list of planning considerations for wind turbine development, expanding on the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan.
<b>Proposed plan objectives:</b>	No objectives are stated.
<b>Copy of PPS attached?</b>	Yes.
<b>Date:</b>	11 December 2013

## SEA Screening Report Section 2: Considering the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Table 1 below summarises the findings of the screening exercise undertaken by North Ayrshire Council in determining the likelihood of significant environment effects from Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Farm Development.

**Table 1 – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment**

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effect?	Summary of significant environmental effects
1(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	No.	North Ayrshire Council's policy on wind turbine development is set out in Policy PI 9 of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP). The guidance will supplement and support relevant policies in the LDP against which planning applications for wind turbine development would be determined. Importantly, it does not change existing local planning policy nor introduce new ones for wind turbine development.
1(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No.	The guidance will supplement, but sit under, the LDP, which has been subject to SEA. It is not intended that the guidance will directly influence any other plan or programme.
1(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No.	The guidance will help promote the principles of sustainable development, supplementing the LDP's policies requiring environmental considerations to be taken into account when making decisions on planning applications for wind turbine development.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No.	There are no discernible environmental problems with this guidance. No additional environmental effects have been identified beyond those identified for the SEA of the LDP.
1(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment	No.	The guidance identifies Natura 2000 sites as areas of significant protection from wind turbine development in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effect?	Summary of significant environmental effects
2(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No.	No significant effects identified. The guidance supplements the policies of the LDP.
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No.	The main purpose of the guidance is to direct developers away from locations which are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment in cumulative terms. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the guidance will have significant effects in relation to this criterion.
2(c) transboundary nature of the effects	No.	The guidance will not have any significant transboundary environment effects.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment	No.	No significant effects identified. The guidance contains criteria which will specify requirements for wind turbine development in relation to shadow flicker, aviation safety and noise impacts.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects	No.	No significant effects identified. The guidance will supplement relevant policies in the LDP, which will help determine the acceptability of the principle of wind turbine development.
2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, (ii) exceeds environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use	No.	The SEA for the LDP considered potential effects. It is considered that the guidance will not result in additional effects by setting out requirements: (i) protecting communities, the natural and historic environment from significant adverse environmental effects relating to wind turbine development; and (ii) protecting sensitive areas from such effects.
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	No.	The guidance and the revised Scottish Planning Policy (2013) have a presumption against wind turbine development within the North Arran Scenic Area.

A summary of the Council's consideration of the significant environment effects of Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Farm Development.

**Table 2 – Summary of Environmental Effects**

The guidance supplements the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan, providing an explanation on how they should be applied when considering applications for wind turbine development. Against all the criteria listed within the Table 1, it was determined that the SG will have no significant environmental effects. It is for this reason that North Ayrshire Council believes the SG is a qualifying plan or programme which does not require a full SEA.

**SEA Screening Report Section 3: Summary of Record of Comments from the Consultation Authorities**

**Table 3: Summary Record of Comments from the Consultation Authorities**

<b>Title of Plan:</b>	Ayrshire Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Farm Development
<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	North Ayrshire Council
<b>Date comments received:</b>	13 January 2014

<b>Consultation Authority</b>	<b>Views</b>
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects: Yes/No
	If yes, please note SEA topic/issues here:
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects: Yes/No
	If yes, please note SEA topic/issues here:
Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects: Yes/No
	If yes, please note SEA topic/issues here: