

## SEA Screening Report – Cover Note

### Cover Note Section 1

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Or  
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### Cover Note Section 2

<b>An SEA screening report is attached for the plan entitled:</b>	Rural Design Guidance
<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

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### 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>	Rural Design Guidance
<b>Plan purpose:</b>	The guidance supplements the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan, explaining what is required to make new development in the countryside visually acceptable and consistent with the design principles of the plan. The guidance clarifies the policies, ensuring they are consistently and accurately applied in relation to the design, siting, car parking and access arrangements of new development. In addition, it seeks to improve design quality inspiring developers to create sympathetic and contemporary development in the countryside.
<b>What prompted the plan:</b>	Administrative decision.
<b>Plan subject:</b>	Development in the countryside and land-use planning.
<b>Period covered by plan:</b>	January 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 countryside of North Ayrshire.
<b>Summary of nature/content of the Plan:</b>	The guidance contains an introduction, a policy context; images and diagrams illustrating the character of the countryside and how new development can sympathetically reflect that character.
<b>Proposed plan objectives:</b>	None.
<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 Rural Design Guidance.

**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.	<p>The guidance will supplement the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan by providing additional guidance on matters relating to siting, design, character, parking, access etc.</p> <p>The acceptability of the principle of development in the countryside will be established by the policies, which have already been the subject of a SEA.</p>
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, clarifying policies of the LDP requiring the visual amenity impacts to be taken into account when making decisions on planning applications for development in the countryside.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No.	No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The acceptability of the principle of development in the countryside will be established by the policies of the LDP, which have already been the subject of a SEA
1(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment	No.	The guidance does not concern itself with the implementation of any EU legislation.

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 such effects are discernible under this guidance. The guidance will supplement the policies of the LDP, the SEA for which identified no effects in relation to this criterion.
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No.	No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The guidance supplements the policies of the LDP, the SEA for which identified no 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 risks to human or the environment are discernible under this guidance.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects	No.	No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The guidance will supplement the policies of the LDP, the SEA for which identified no effects in relation to this criterion.
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.	No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The acceptability of the principle of development in the countryside will be established by the policies of the LDP, which have already been the subject of a SEA.
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	No.	No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The acceptability of the principle of development in the countryside will be established by the policies of the LDP, which have already been the subject of a SEA.

A summary of the Council's consideration of the significant environment effects of Rural Design Guidance.

**Table 2 – Summary of Environmental Effects**

The guidance supplements the policies of the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP), guiding how they should be interpreted and applied in relation to the development in the countryside. It is hoped the guidance will provide additional clarity on what the Council is seeking in terms of design quality, hopefully providing developers with greater certainty in the planning process. However, the acceptability of the principle of development in the countryside will be established by the policies of the LDP.

Against all the criteria listed within the Table 1, it was determined that the guidance will have no significant environmental effects. North Ayrshire Council therefore believes the guidance is a qualifying plan or programme which does not require a 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>	Rural Design Guidance
<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	North Ayrshire Council
<b>Date comments received:</b>	13 January 2014

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

