

SEA Screening Report – Cover Note

Cover Note Section 1

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Cover Note Section 2

An SEA screening report is attached for the plan entitled:	Trees and Development Guidance
The Responsible Authority is:	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:

13 June 2016

SEA Screening Report

SEA Screening Report Section 1: Key Facts

Responsible Authority:	North Ayrshire Council (NAC)
Title of Plan:	Trees and Development Guidance
Plan purpose:	The guidance seeks to ensure that we give proper consideration to trees, hedges and other vegetation in the determination of planning applications in North Ayrshire.
What prompted the plan:	Administrative decision.
Plan subject:	Trees and land-use planning
Period covered by plan:	April 2016 onwards.
Frequency of plan updates:	As circumstances dictate.
Plan area:	Administrative area of North Ayrshire.
Summary of nature/content of the Plan:	<p>The guidance offer prospective developers a set of standards, which would inform new developments, where trees are a planning consideration. The guidance encourages developers to consider trees and hedgerows at an initial site assessment. In summary, the guidance covers the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the policy and legislative framework for tree protection, including tree preservation orders (TPOs) - advice on the content of tree assessments - design and construction of new buildings near trees or hedgerows - useful contacts to find additional information <p>The guidance provides applicants with a checklist of information to accompany planning applications, where trees are a planning consideration. It also outlines the latest British Standard for trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, which is the Standard, used by Councils to consider the potential impacts on trees.</p>
Proposed plan objectives:	The aim is to encourage the preservation of trees and hedgerows of merit within new development, where appropriate.
Date:	13 June 2016

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 the Coastal 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	The guidance supplements the policies of the current North Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP) by providing additional planning guidance on matters relating to trees and development. The acceptability of the principle of proposed development will be established by the policies, which have already been the subject of a SEA.
1(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The guidance will not influence any other planning within a hierarchy. It supports the LDP which has undergone SEA.
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 benefits the environment requiring applicants to have regard to the preservation and planting of trees and their potential to contribute toward the green network.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	No	The guidance has no discernible impact upon this criterion.
1(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment	No	The guidance has no relationship 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	The guidance has no discernible impact upon this criterion
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	The guidance has no discernible impact upon this criterion.
2(c) transboundary nature of the effects	No	The guidance will not have any transboundary environmental effects.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment	No	The guidance will not pose any risk to human health or the environment.
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects	No	The guidance has no discernible impact upon 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	The intention of the guidance is to supplement and expand upon the policies of the LDP. The guidance will have no discernible impacts upon: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effect?	Summary of significant environmental effects
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	No	The guidance will have no discernible impacts on landscapes or areas of protection.

A summary of the screening process is presented in **Table 2** below

Table 2 – Summary of Screening Assessment

The guidance support the principles of sustainable development requiring the Council to give proper consideration to trees and hedgerows through the planning process. It will benefit the natural environment, giving clear advice on the Council's requirements for appropriately integrating trees and hedgerows of merit within new development, helping that development make a positive contribution toward improved amenity, green networks and climate change resilience. Against all the criteria listed within Table 1, it was determined that the guidance will have no environmental effects.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that the Council believes that the guidance is a qualifying plan, programme or strategy which does not require a full SEA.