

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

Perth and Kinross Council

Title of the plan:

Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance: Forest and Woodland Strategy

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Legislative provision. The Supplementary Guidance (SG) will provide further information and detail in respect of the Perth and Kinross Proposed Local Development Plan Policy 38: Forestry, Woodland and Trees as well as locational guidance for the planting of new, and management of existing, forests and woodland. It is intended that the currently adopted SG (Forest and Woodland Strategy) 2014 is to be updated with minor updates and 're-adopted' alongside the next Local Development Plan when it comes in to force.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Land Use Planning – Forestry, Woodland and Trees

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Andrew Ballantine, Planning Officer, Housing and Environment Service,
Perth and Kinross Council,
Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD
aballantine@pkc.gov.uk

Date:

27 June 2019

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

This SG is being prepared in the context of the Perth & Kinross Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP), published in 2017. The Proposed Plan contains a policy relating to forestry, woodland and trees (Policy 38) and it is intended that the SG will provide support, further information and detail in respect of this policy, including locational guidance for the planting of new, and management of existing, forests, woodlands and trees. This SG will be prepared in the context of key land use strategy documents including Scottish Planning Policy (2014), Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029), Land Use Strategy (2016) and Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal.

It is intended to adopt the SG when the Proposed Local Development Plan comes in to force following completion of the Examination and post-Examination scrutiny process.

The SG will involve minor updates to, and the 're-adoption' of, the current adopted SG on Forestry, Woodlands and Trees which supports Policy NE2 of the Adopted Perth & Kinross Local Development Plan (2014). The current adopted SG was prepared as a 10-year strategy with the intention of a review after 5 years; this SG forms the review of the current strategy and is intended to reflect minor changes in the policy context (e.g. Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029) and Land Use Strategy (2016)) and to bring the SG in to line with the forthcoming LDP. We have identified the following minor updates required:

- Update references to new LDP and Policy 38 (Forestry, Woodland and Trees).
- Update reference to organisational name change from Forestry Commission Scotland to Scottish Forestry
- Update background and policy context including references to Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029) and Land Use Strategy (2016) as well as the recent legislative changes to forestry in Scotland
- Update references to planting targets associated with Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029)
- Update reference to PKC planting figures and existing woodland resource across Council area

Description of the Plan:

This SG will provide support, further information and detail in respect of Policy 38 (Forestry, Woodland and Trees) of the next Local Development Plan, including locational guidance for the planting of new, and management of existing, forests, woodlands and trees. The purpose of the Strategy is to:

- Support Policy 38 of the Proposed Local Development Plan by providing support, further information and detail.
- Provide a strategic framework for the development of forestry in Perth and Kinross
- Set out a local interpretation of the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029)
- Ensure a balance of forestry with other land uses by identifying appropriate locations for a variety of types of woodland expansion and management practice, taking in to account the Land Use Strategy (2016)
- Ensure forest activity contributes across the range of Council policy objectives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the public benefits of managing and expanding the area’s forest estate are optimised. <p>As noted above, the SG is a 10-year strategy covering the time period 2014 to 2024.</p>
<p>What are the key components of the plan?</p>	<p>As noted above, the SG will provide further information and detail in respect of Policy 38 including reference to key policy and guidance documents such as the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029). The SG will also provide a strategic framework for the development of forestry in Perth and Kinross using existing spatial analysis work developed as part of the existing SG (Forestry and Woodland Strategy, adopted 2014) in collaboration with the then Forestry Commission Scotland and with consultation with key stakeholders and authorities. The purpose of the framework – which will be carried forward to the updated SG - is to provide a strategic steer for managing existing, and planting new, forests and woodlands taking in to account a range of environmental data sources and prioritising the most environmentally-suitable locations for particular land use activities, including forestry.</p>
<p>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</p>	<p>The LDP policy (Policy 38) under which this SG is to be prepared has been considered as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Proposed LDP, which was completed in parallel with the plan. The SEA associated with the Proposed LDP can be viewed on the Council’s website. This SG forms the bottom of the policy hierarchy and is prepared to provide further support and guidance in relation to the Policy, rather than adding or changing the Policy itself.</p> <p>The existing Forest and Woodland Strategy (adopted in 2014) was subject to full SEA. A wide range of legislation, policy and advice was considered as part of this SEA work and the full results of the SEA of the existing SG can be viewed at the FWS website.</p> <p>As this SG is intended to provide minor updates to the existing SG and to bring it in to line with the forthcoming LDP, the previous SEA is still relevant and provides a thorough and detailed environmental assessment of the SG. The Council has reviewed changes in the context of any further Environmental Assessment work required and it is considered that the updates to be included for the SG (see list above) would not require further SEA work. It is considered there are no significant environmental effects likely to arise as a result of ‘re-adopting’ the existing SG and including minor updates. The overall strategy, vision and objectives will remain unchanged as a result of the minor updates and the existing strategic framework will be carried forward unchanged.</p> <p>In addition, the two key documents which have been referred to above – the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029) and the Land Use Strategy (2016) – have both been subject to full SEA and the findings reported. It is considered the existing SG is already in line with these two key strategy documents, in particular one of the purposes of the SG is to provide a local interpretation of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. Any updates to reflect these will be minor. As such it is considered that the SEA work associated with the existing Forest and Woodland Strategy is sufficient in fulfilling the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and further updates required on</p>

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

the SG are only minor and will not give rise to any significant environmental effects.

As the proposed SG (Forest and Woodland Strategy) will only be subject to minor updates to ensure it reflects the current legislative/policy context and ensure it is in line with the forthcoming LDP (which has been subject to full SEA), it will not give rise to any material changes to the Guidance's existing strategy, vision or objectives. As such, the updated SG will not give rise to any significant environmental effects.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Consideration of proposals – advice and guidance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Assist with improved consideration of forest and woodland proposals by signposting routes to existing policy, guidance and information.	This SG will assist in directing to existing policy and guidance without introducing new material. It is anticipated that its application in Development Management will be to assist in determining planning applications where forest or woodland planting is proposed.
Locational guidance - using the Strategic framework – to steer proposals to most env. suitable locations using key land use principles	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Assist when considering new or existing forestry/woodland proposals by steering proposals to the most environmentally-suitable locations. Using a range of environmental data and information sources, the strategic framework has specifically identified: preferred; potential; sensitive and unsuitable areas for forest and woodland planting. This framework identifies specific areas	This SG will assist in steering new proposals to the most environmentally-suitable locations using a range of environmental datasets and information sources. It is intended to inform both the site selection process as well as to assist with determining planning applications and forest/woodland related grants.

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance: Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications in the Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan area. It will offer a guide to existing policy and guidance relating to forest and woodlands as well as setting a strategic framework for the sustainable development of new proposals involving existing and new forests/woodlands.

It is important to note that the proposed SG comprises a minor update to the existing SG (Forestry and Woodland Strategy) which was adopted in 2014. The minor updates are required to provide an update on the legislative/policy context (namely on the publication of the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029) and Land Use Strategy (2016)) as well as to bring the SG in to line with the forthcoming LDP, when it is expected to be adopted in the next 12 months. The existing SG has been subject to full SEA already and required updates will only be minor. As such this will not result in any significant changes to the overall strategy, vision or objectives of the SG and resultant outputs.

It will not result in any significant environmental effects on the issues listed in Schedule 3 Section 6 (a)-(e) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is therefore our view that an SEA is not required in this instance.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.