

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 1**

**To:** [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
or  
SEA Gateway  
Scottish Executive  
Area 1 H (Bridge)  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

**PART 2**

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Dundee Core Path Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Dundee City Council

**COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5**

**PART 3**

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects ***or***
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

**PART 4**

- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

**PART 5**

- None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:  
.....  
.....  
.....

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**PART 6**

**Contact name**

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**Job Title**

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**PART 7**

**Signature**  
(electronic  
signature  
is acceptable)

Bryan Harris

**Date**

23/08/07

**SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS**

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Dundee City Council
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Dundee Core Path Plan
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	To prepare a plan of paths that will provide a basic framework of routes sufficient to give public access throughout the Dundee City Area.
<b>What prompted the PPS</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The preparation of a Core Path Plan is a statutory duty set out under Section 17 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
<b>Subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Outdoor Access
<b>Period covered by PPS</b>	2008-2011
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	The Plan will be reviewed alongside the Local Plan
<b>Area covered by PPS</b> (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	Dundee City Council Area
<b>Summary of nature/content of PPS</b>	The Core Path Plan will identify and provide a plan for a basic framework of routes sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout Dundee. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires that the plan includes: a map (or maps) of the core path system, a list of designated core paths, and supporting text.
<b>Are there any proposed PPS objectives?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Copy of objectives attached</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Date</b>	23/08/07

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of Dundee's Core Path Plan is set out in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

TITLE OF PPS		
Dundee Core Path Plan		
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY		
Dundee City Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects?  YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	NO	It is likely that resources will be targeted at maintaining and improving core paths. There may be some path development work as a result of the Core Path Plan (CPP), although core paths may take any form, from a muddy track to a tarmac surface.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	YES	The plan will form a base layer of the Local Plan when the Local Plan is next reviewed. The plan will also have some influence on the reviews of the Outdoor Access Strategy and the Public Open Space Strategy.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	NO	The plan promotes a network of paths for walking, cycling, horse riding etc. These paths will be used to mitigate land management and environmental considerations. The CPP for Dundee City will include a number of routes to workplaces, schools, shops and other local facilities, therefore encouraging sustainable transport.

<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(d) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	<b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b>
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	NO	The CPP is intended to facilitate responsible access and should therefore help with the resolution of environmental problems, in particular environmental degradation caused by traffic congestion in the city. There is, however, the potential for damage or disturbance of cultural and natural heritage sites as a result of increased path use which can be mitigated through the selection of paths and appropriate management.
1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	N/A	N/A
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	NO	The environmental effects are unlikely to be significant given the linear nature of paths. The potential exists for the degradation of natural and cultural heritage sites due to increased use of path networks; however the effective planning and management of the Core Path Network should mitigate this. The effects are likely to be reversible.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	NO	The adoption and promotion of the CPP should have a positive effect, particularly on greater community accessibility and potential health benefits. There is likely to be a gradual increase in the use of path networks and this may result in damage or disturbance at some localised sites. The CPP aims to address and mitigate these problems in its development and the path network will be monitored.

<b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	<b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b>
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	NO	No transboundary issues
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	NO	The plan is likely to have a positive effect on human health. Promoting the plan should improve health due to increased numbers of people walking and cycling. The selection of paths and suggested improvements/maintenance should mitigate any accidents relating to the use of the path network.
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	NO	The area covered by the CPP is the Dundee City Council boundary. The plan is not likely to effect the population in a major way, other than to highlight paths they could use in their area.
2 (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.	NO	i) Improved direction of people through such sites, with way-markers to point out the core paths, should help to improve the sites on the whole and improve visitor management. Monitoring of the core path network will be ongoing and will provide early warning of any issues.  ii) N/A  iii) N/A
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	NO	The majority of the routes selected as candidate core paths already exist; therefore it is unlikely that there will be any direct effects from designation. Any paths which are designated as core paths in such areas are likely to improve management. People are more likely to follow a route that is signposted than to walk across an area, thus the larger area is protected from over use.

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of Dundee's Core Path Plan is given below.**

**TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

Given the urban nature of Dundee's Path Network and the fact that the majority of the paths in Dundee's Core Path Plan (CPP) are likely to already exist, it is not anticipated that the implementation of the CPP will have significant direct environmental effects. There is the potential for indirect effects due to the implementation of the plan, this could include:

- improved social inclusion due to greater community awareness of paths to local services, greenspaces, neighbouring communities and countryside areas
- an increase in physical activity through the use of non-motorised transport for leisure and everyday journeys, leading to better public health across the area
- the disturbance of natural and cultural heritage sites adjacent to paths where human activity is significantly increased due to the promotion and use of core paths

In the preparation of the CPP there will be consideration of these factors and the final plan will show routes that people want to use, but which also minimise disturbance to the environment and to land management interests. The CPP provides a means to manage access, which is particularly important on sensitive sites.

On the whole path networks will be improved and the impact on the environment should be a positive one.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **DUNDEE CITY CORE PATH PLAN Draft Objectives**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To provide a basic framework of routes for leisure and everyday journeys throughout the Dundee City area
- To connect homes, workplaces, schools, services, greenspaces, communities and the wider countryside.
- To help Dundee become a healthy and sustainable city