

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT – COVER NOTE**

**PART 1**

**To:** [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

or

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**PART 2**

**A post-adoption SEA statement is attached for the PPS entitled:**

Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

**The Responsible Authority is:**

North, East & South Ayrshire Local Authorities

**PART 3**

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**Signature & date**

## POST - ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

### Post-adoption SEA statement for:

Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

### Adopted on:

June 2008

### Responsible Authority:

North, East & South Ayrshire Local Authorities via Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan

## POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT INTRODUCTION

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

## POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

### WEBSITE

The full PPS as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement are available on the Responsible Authority's website at:

[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) ; [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk) ; [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/environment/sd](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/environment/sd)

### OFFICE ADDRESS

The PPS, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) at the principal office of the Responsible Authority:

### Contact name, address and telephone number

North Ayrshire = Iain Hossack, Perceton House, Irvine, KA11 2DE Tel: 01294 225199  
East Ayrshire = Douglas Gardiner, Western Road, Kilmarnock Tel: 01563 554039  
South Ayrshire = Fiona Ross, Burns House, Burns Statue Square Ayr KA7 1UT Tel: 01292 616673

### Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained:

10am – 12noon and 2pm – 4pm Monday-Friday inclusive (except public holidays)

**POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT  
KEY FACTS**

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	North, East & South Ayrshire Local Authority via Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist in the delivery, at a local level, of the conservation and enhancement of flora and fauna.</li> <li>• To relate to higher-level policy, plans and programmes which also aim to protect the bio diversity.</li> <li>• To work with other groups, agencies, NGO's and / or interested individuals to deliver a co-ordinated approach to the conservation of biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation of the habitats and species for Ayrshire</li> <li>• plans for selected priority habitat and species and any relevant generic action plans.</li> </ul>
<b>What prompted the PPS</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The initial prompt was the signing of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was subsequently followed up by the development of a number of national plans, which resulted in each local authority developing its own Biodiversity Action Plan. In 2002 Ayrshire produced its first Action Plan, since then many things have changed – laws, priority species, research, data. As such it was felt that a review of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan was required.
<b>Subject (e.g. transport)</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Period covered</b>	2007-2010
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	Full review every 5 yrs.
<b>Area of PPS</b> (e.g. geographical area)	3500 Km sq - Ayrshire
<b>Date adopted</b>	June 2008
<b>Contact name &amp; job title</b> <b>Address, email, telephone number</b>	Fiona Ross, Env. Strategy Officer, South Ayrshire Council, Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr, KA7 3TA Tel: 01292 616673
<b>Date</b>	July 2008

## **POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report
  
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft PPS which included consideration of:
  - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
  - links between the PPS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
  - existing environmental problems affecting the PPS;
  - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
  - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
  - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
  - monitoring measures to ensue that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
  
- Consulting on the Environmental Report
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the PPS
  
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.

**POST ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT  
HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED  
INTO AYRSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN THE AND HOW THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

In the table below Table 1 you will see the environmental problems that were identified in the Environmental Report together with how the issues have been integrated within the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Environmental Report did not discover any negative effects within the Plan and this may be due to the fact that the document is broadly speaking an environmentally beneficial document. However it was noted that each of the Plans Habitat & Species Action Plans were all weak in encouraging people to come into contact with flora & fauna and in the improvement of publicly accessible open space. This was recognised as a concern that while there are some opportunities within each plan to involve the general public and to raise peoples awareness of biodiversity issues they are limited. However rather than develop specific objectives and actions within each plan that may have limited effect and not assist in the overall objectives of the HAP's & SAP's, that each Plan Leader would maximise the opportunities for public participation in the delivery of their Plan.

In relation to mitigation, Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires an explanation of "the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme". While there were no negative or significantly negative impacts identified during the assessment of the plan objectives, the table below sets out the environmental problems / issues where mitigation measures could be implemented to improve the situation

<b>SEA Issue</b>	<b>Existing Problem?</b>	<b>Plan Impact</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>
<b>Soil</b>	Safeguarding soil quality	Largely positive with particular reference to the HAPs. While SAPs may well have to consider agricultural farming methods and how to protect soils	Actions and targets highlight the need for soil / substrate protection. Working with landowners to increase their knowledge and awareness of issues. To develop best practice information packs for all of those involved e.g. landowners, land managers
<b>Water</b>	Diffuse pollution	Plan recognises that this is an environmental issue in some areas	Through The Water Vole & Lowland Raised Bog Action Plans in particular the issue of water quality and so pollution levels is important. Establishing habitat condition and threats is part of the actions included – this will lead to working with land owners / managers for potential management action and best practice  SEPA is working in partnership with the NFU Scotland, Macaulay Institute and others to look at a range of water quality issues in two catchments representative of land uses in Scotland. One of these catchments is the Cessnock in Ayrshire, chosen because its land use is representative of livestock production in Scotland – the Scottish Agricultural College at Auchincruive is a significant partner. By carrying out

			an in depth study of the sources of pollution and identifying what risks they pose to water quality, the project will be able to suggest measures to help prevent or reduce the risks of these pollutants entering surrounding waters.
<b>Water</b>	Reduce / manage flood risk. Ayrshire does suffer to some degree to coastal flooding, more likely coastal erosion. Some river flooding	Minimal impact on tackling this problem	The Action Plans do not directly tackle this issue. However through the Coastal plan there is the potential to reduce the impact of coastal erosion, which would then lead to coastal flooding.
<b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	Raising peoples interest in matters surrounding biodiversity	One of the general aspects of developing this plan was to engage and raise peoples awareness of biodiversity	Whenever possible the intention is to involve the general public. To inform the general public of works and to work with special interest groups to develop the sense of ownership of the area and project(s)

The above mitigation formed part of the original Environmental Report and there were none added after the period of consultation.

There were a great number of positive effects of this plan below is a summery table which assessed the ALBAP in relation to the SEA topics which were scoped in. As mentioned previously this document was produced to be environmentally beneficial therefore it is unsurprising to see so many positive indicators. As you will note the assessment was in relation to the LBAP's objectives and as such are an integral part of the plan.

	<b>LBAP Plan Objectives</b>					
	Lowland Raised Bogs	Coastal Habitats	Water Voles	Farmland Birds	Implementation & Reporting & Monitoring	Data & Information
<b>SEA Topic</b>						
Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	++	++	++	++	+	+
Soil	++	0	0/+	+	0/+	?
Water	+	0	0/+ +	0/+	0/+	?
Landscape	++	+	+	++	0/+	0/+
<b>Legend</b>						
+	Positive environmental effect (+ = minor; ++ = major)					
-	Negative environmental effect					
0	Neutral environmental effect					
?	Unknown / Uncertain					

**POST ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT  
HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED  
INTO Ayrshire LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN THE AND HOW  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

**TABLE 1**

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FINDINGS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT</b>	<b>INTEGRATED INTO PPS (YES/NO)</b>	<b>HOW INTEGRATED/ TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT OR REASON FOR NOT BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT</b>
<b>Lack of Data</b>	Yes	<p>This was identified as being one of the major issues with biodiversity in Ayrshire. There is no Biological Records Centre and no uniform methodology for recording data. As such the two Core themes of this Local Biodiversity Action Plan cover:- Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan implementation, reporting and monitoring and Data &amp; information. One of the aims of which is to create an Ayrshire Biological Records Centre.</p> <p>In addition to which each of the action plan has objectives to gather data</p>
<b>Habitat Fragmentation</b>	Yes	<p>In some ways this issue and the following one have been dealt with in the same manner ,either educationally or via remedial works. Also the plan aims to recognise small areas of "good" habitats that require to be protected, conserved and whenever possible enhanced</p>
<b>Reduction of Habitats</b>	Yes	<p>Reduction of habitat is a problem not only for Ayrshire biodiversity but biodiversity, regionally, nationally and internationally.</p> <p>In relation to this plan habitat reduction was seen as a component in the decline of the species within the two species action plan the result of which is that each either has an objective or action in which the aim is to reduce the loss of habitat either by education or via remedial work.</p> <p>The habitat action plans also work to this aim.</p>
<b>Loss of Species Diversity</b>	Yes	<p>Through habitat fragmentation and habitat loss the species diversity in areas has reduced. In each of the habitat plans work is being undertaken to and retain the status quo or if possible to reverse the trend. Therefore within each there are either actions and or objectives which aim to achieve the above.</p>
<b>Water Quality</b>	Yes - Indirectly	<p>As both the habitat action plans and one of the species action plans (Water Vole) have a close relationship with water the issue of water quality had to be considered.</p> <p>There are no formal objectives or actions pertaining to water however to establish suitable habitat water is a component therefore either through education or remediation the area of water quality will become a consideration.</p>

**POST ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT  
HOW OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING CONSULTATION HAVE BEEN  
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (INCLUDING ANY CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
WITH OTHER EU MEMBER STATES)**

**TABLE 2 –LISTS CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND SETS OUT HOW THEY  
HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

<b>CONSULTEE / RESPONDENT</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF COMMENTS</b>	<b>HOW THE COMMENT WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THE DECISION TO ADOPT THE FINAL PPS</b>
Response SNH	<p><b>Whether or not the current state of the environment and key trends have been correctly identified.</b> Additional sources of baseline information worth inclusion are the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Woodland Inventory. Appendix C of the ER should be updated to include the Renfrewshire Heights SPA, Glen App and Galloway Moors SPA and Merrick Kells SAC. Contemporary data on designated natural heritage sites is available publicly through the SNH website.</p> <p><b>Does the ER identify the potential significant effects of the ALBAP on the natural heritage?</b> Although the ER identifies a range of potentially significant effects on the ALBAP on the natural heritage, non-native invasive species is of particular environmental importance in Ayrshire and should be included.</p> <p><b>Whether or not the assessment of likely significant effects on the environment is satisfactory</b> We are content with the assessment of likely significant effects resulting from the implementation of the ALBAP. However, we refer to the additional environmental issue identified (i.e. non native invasive species); it would be helpful to assess this issue and identify mitigation measures where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Whether any measures could prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment when implementing the plan or programme</b> We are pleased with the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the ER</p> <p><b>Whether the proposals for monitoring are adequate</b> We are happy with the proposed monitoring Methods</p>	<p>Noted – the majority of SNH’s comments indicated their satisfaction with the ER as it stands, the exception being the issue of non-native invasive species.</p> <p>As such within 5.3.of the finalised Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan an additional sentence pertaining to the matter of non-native invasive species has been added. “Each Plan Leader will prepare a statement on the mitigation of non – native invasive features as part of the Action Plan should that prove necessary”.</p>

<p><b>Historic Scotland</b></p>	<p>At the scoping stage the cultural heritage was scoped in due to its potential to be affected by the implementation of the LBAP. However at ER stage this SEA topic was scoped out as the ALBAP was thought unlikely to have either a positive or negative affect on the cultural heritage because: a high proportion of the actions are to collect data; the objectives and actions in the plan that involve physical works are unlikely to significantly affect the historic environment; the plan is focussed on a reduced number of actions to ensure that it covers priorities and local actions.</p> <p>Historic Scotland has considered the plan objectives and actions in relation to the ALBAP and agrees that it is unlikely to have a significant effect on the cultural heritage.</p> <p>As such no objection to cultural heritage being scoped out and Historic Scotland has no further comments to make in relation to the ER.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</b></p>	<p>In general the ER is a comprehensive and well set out report which takes into consideration a number of the comments made by SEPA in its Scoping consultation. However a summary of how issues raised in the scoping Response have been dealt with would have been useful.</p> <p>It is noted that the plans Core Theme Action Plans HAP's &amp; SAP's objectives were assessed in relation to the SEA objectives. SEPA considers that this level of assessment is appropriate for the plan.</p> <p>It is clear that the positive impacts of the ALBAP will be vital in assisting the current environmental problems in Ayrshire. SEPA would encourage Ayrshire to continue to address these issues at a local level through the ALBAP and at a national level through the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. There are a number of national strategic mechanisms already delivering work for biodiversity that could assist. E.g. River Basin Management Planning, Integrated Habitat Networks, Scottish Working Group for non native species.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted – The points are well made and ALBAP will endeavour whenever possible to capitalise on current initiatives and potential partnerships.</p>

## POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

### REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE AYRSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AS ADOPTED, IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

The following process was used by the ALBAP Steering Group to determine the alternatives considered as part of this strategic environmental assessment. From this the Steering Group considered that the best course of action would be to develop the ALBAP using the third option.

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Rational</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<b>1. Do nothing</b>	The first alternative to the ALBAP steering group would be to do nothing. This would mean that no additional or progress work would be undertaken. No need for additional resources.	This is not an option that the ALBAG wished to pursue. The existing ALBAP does not reflect the updated publications and legislation pertaining to biodiversity. The original document was a far reaching document & did not have achievable targets. Without an up to date, relevant document from which partner organisations could work from or relate works to, Ayrshire would not develop a co-ordinated and focused approach to biodiversity within Ayrshire.
<b>2. Develop an ALBAP similar to the first</b>	This would be similar to the first plan and would develop from the previous SAP & HAP. It would be wide ranging and ambitious. It would involve a broader number of people as the SAPs and HAPs would have a breadth of interest.	The ALBAP steering group did not feel that this was a viable option. Learning from the lessons of the first ALBAP it was felt that the plan while being very informative was too ambitious with some unrealistic objectives – as such it did not deliver its full potential
<b>3. Develop an ALBAP that was much more focused on specific priorities</b>	Such a plan would focus on specific priorities within the international, national and local context. All actions / targets would be SMART. This form of plan would be more of a “rolling “ programme once the actions of the specific HAP / SAP were completed new HAP / SAPs would be developed.	The ALBAP steering group felt that this plan format would be the most beneficial. Focusing on a small number of HAPs SAPs that have SMART targets while meshing with national and international perspective would be extremely beneficial. Groups would feel that they were making a contribution toward an overall goal, targets being achievable. The fact that it would be written as a working document that would be updated regularly and progressing rather than the more “reference” document of the first ALBAP

## POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

### MEASURES THAT ARE TO BE TAKEN TO MONITOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PPS

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action.

To ensure that the monitoring measures were relevant to the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan links have been made to the baseline data and to the actions of the HAPs and SAPs. The following table outlines the proposed SEA monitoring activities that the Ayrshire LBAP Steering Group developed.

What is being Monitored	Data source, frequency of monitoring	Summary of proposed remedial action (if information is available)	Timescale & responsibility
Reports of breeding Barn Owl in Ayrshire	RSPB, BTO, FWAG Annual		RSPB 2009 / 10
Monitor & report on the known water vole population in the Stinchar catchment both within any improved areas and out with such areas	Ayrshire Rivers Trust Annual		Ayrshire Rivers Trust 2008/9
Identify the relative value of the raised bogs based on their invertebrate importance using water beetle communities as indicators	External Consultant To be decided		Lowland Raised Bogs – Bruce Philp 2009
Condition & number of designated sites e.g. SAP, SAC, SSSI etc	SNH		SNH ; Steering Group 2009/10
Changes in number / area of LBAP species / habitat	Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Group Steering Group		Steering Group On going
Number of Ayrshire LBAP actions completed	Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Group Steering Group Ongoing		Steering Group On going
Habitat type/ distribution – Phase 1 Habitat survey	SNH Ongoing	May require to be updated	Steering Group On going
Bathing Water Quality	SEPA June – Sep		Steering Group On going
River water quality	SEPA		Steering Group On Going

The main reason for the monitoring is to measure the effect that the plan is having on the environment both, it will demonstrate whether the mitigation measures have been robust enough to assist in protecting the environment and will highlight any issues that had not been anticipated.