

**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:

Forestry Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians

The Responsible Authority is:

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (on behalf of Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership)

**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:  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)**

**PART 6**

**Contact name**

Ian Whitehead

**Job Title**

Forest Habitat Network Officer

**Contact address**

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**PART 7**

**Signature**  
(electronic  
signature  
is acceptable)

*Ian Whitehead*

**Date**

24.05.10

## SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership
<b>Title of PPS</b>	Forestry Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians
<b>Purpose of PPS</b>	To provide strategic direction for the development of forestry proposals within Edinburgh and the Lothians based on habitat network and sustainable development principles.
<b>What prompted the PPS</b> (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Framework was prompted by the lack of existing forestry strategy for the area. The Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership (a partnership of public sector and NGO organisations) decided to take forward the development of the Lothians Forestry Framework on a voluntary basis rather than the document being a statutory requirement.
<b>Subject</b> (e.g. transport)	Forestry and environment
<b>Period covered by PPS</b>	Until 2050
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	As required
<b>Area covered by PPS</b> (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	Edinburgh and Lothians (the Local Authority areas of East Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian)
<b>Summary of nature/content of PPS</b>	The Forestry Framework sets out a vision for forestry across the region for the next 40 years and takes a holistic view based on the development of a multi functional green networks. The outcomes of the framework focus on the delivery of key sustainable development indicators through good forestry practice. The final framework will include a themed Action Plan and maps showing broad spatial priorities for forest habitat network development across the Region. The Framework is intended to be an advisory purposes.
<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>	24.05.10

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of **[insert PPS title]** is set out in Table 1.

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

<p><b>TITLE OF PPS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Forestry Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians</div> <p><b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Edinburgh and the Lothians Greenspace Trust</div>		
<p><b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment</b> (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  YES/NO</p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Negative – N/A. Positive effects: Likely to lead to an increase in the total amount of woodland cover in keeping with the Scottish Forestry Strategy and the Climate Change Scotland Act (2009).</p> <p>Suggests spatial priority areas for new woodland creation projects (non statutory).</p> <p>Sets out general aspirations promoting the concept of habitat networks and multifunctional green networks particularly with reference to integration with strategic development planning, development master-planning and rural development proposals. The plan identifies or allocates no specific resource for projects however. It is also outwith the scope of the plan to specify individual projects or proposals.</p>

<p>1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Negative effects – N/A</p> <p>Positive effects: Although the Lothians Forestry Framework is not a statutory requirement, the plan is likely to have influence on a range of other PPS's including open space strategies, local biodiversity action plans and core path network plan. The Framework will also propose broadbrush principles for integrating development masterplanning and rural development applications with the wider green network approach.</p> <p>Indirectly, the thinking behind the draft plan has influenced the incorporation of the green network agenda within the SESplan main issues report and the development of the Central Scotland Green Network Proposals under NPF2.</p>
<p>1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Negative effects - N/A</p>
<p><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)</p>	<p><b>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</b>  <b>YES/NO</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</b></p>
<p>1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive: The Plan is likely to lead to an overall increase in woodland cover. The aim is integrate woodland creation and creation of multifunctional green networks within development masterplanning. This should lead an increase in tree cover and green infrastructure in relation to new and existing development.</p>

<p>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)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No effects</p>
<p>2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive: The impact of the effects will depend on appropriate incentives being available for new woodland and green network creation as the plan is non statutory and specific funding is not associated with the plan. It is therefore not possible to predict the precise impact of the effects.</p>
<p>2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects</p> <p>(See Chapter 12 of Tool Kit)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive: It is likely that the plan would facilitate a slow but steady increase in the amount and distribution of woodland cover. .</p>
<p>2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive: The effects will be local in nature but will cross administrative (local authority) boundaries within/ adjacent to the area. There will be no impacts outwith the immediate boundary of the PPS area.</p>
<p>2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)</p> <p>(See Chapter 11 of Tool Kit)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive: The creation of green networks will help to create a calming and stress free environment which should reduce accidents. Active travel will also be promoted and this may help to reduce vehicle collisions.</p>

<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 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	Positive: the PPS will have a cumulative environmental benefit with small increases in tree and woodland cover generally with some greater increases around proposed Community Growth Areas. The magnitude and spatial extent will depend on resources available and other external factors. It is therefore not possible to predict at this time.
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.	Yes	Positive: The PPS is based on landscape ecology principles through identifying and consolidating habitat networks. Projects which might arise from the PPS would therefore aim to enhance existing natural characteristics, landscape value and cultural heritage benefits.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	Yes – positive. It is likely for example that there might be enhancement of potential SSSI woodland sites. However the Lothians Forestry Framework does not specify actions for individual sites, though does outline broad spatial priorities for the Lothians Region.

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of the Edinburgh and the Lothians Forestry Framework is given below.**

**TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

There will be positive environmental effects arising from the PPS. These will include;

- An overall increase in woodland cover throughout the Lothians from the present time to 2050. This will provide benefits for biodiversity, landscape character and for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. The effect will be a low level cumulative one. The extent of this increase will depend upon external funding sources including the uptake of grants available through the Scottish Rural Development Plan (SRDP). Green network development within Community Growth Areas may potentially be supported through developer funding supported by the planning system. This in turn depends upon the amount of development activity within the Lothians.
- Existing habitat networks will be consolidated through new planting of appropriate species. This will occur in conjunction with developing a wider mosaic of linked natural habitats and greenspaces offering environmental and social benefits as part of the Central Scotland Green Network.
- Existing woodlands will be brought into better condition through increased management activity to improve silviculture, woodland structure and biodiversity.
- There will be increased social benefits from woodland through managed use for informal recreation, health and learning.
- Green infrastructure will be promoted, particularly within the context of core development areas and community growth areas. This will aim to integrate these areas as part of the wider green network. This is however aspirational and it is not within the remit of the Lothians Forestry Framework to specify detailed masterplans or project briefs.

## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**TABLE 3  
SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

### SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 2

It is not a statutory requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

#### TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

Forestry Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians

#### RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

#### DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

22/06/10

Consultation Authority	Views (if known at this stage)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects - <b>YES</b> / NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. soil and water)  air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects - <b>YES</b> / NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)  If a SEA is undertaken, we advise that it focuses solely on any direct, strategic environmental effects that may result from the Forestry Framework – if any can be identified which are not subject to SEA in relation to other PPS.
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects - YES/ <b>NO</b>
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)



## SEA SCREENING REPORT

**TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION**

### SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 3

It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

#### TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)

Forestry Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians

#### RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (on behalf of Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership)

<b>1</b> <b>Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is</u> likely to have significant environmental effects</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Yes"/>
<b>Date of determination</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="01/07/10"/>
<b>2</b> <b>Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <u>is not</u> likely to have significant environmental effects</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>Date of determination</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>3</b> <b>Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>Date referred to the Scottish Ministers</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>4</b> <b>Scottish Ministers' determination</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>Date of determination</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
<b>5</b> <b>Publicity requirements met</b>	<input style="width: 45%; text-align: center; background-color: yellow;" type="text" value="YES"/> <input style="width: 45%; text-align: center;" type="text" value="NO"/>
<b>6</b> <b>Signature</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Jan Whithead"/>
<b>Date</b>	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="01/07/10"/>

