

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@gov.scot

or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

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

‘Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Assessment – Supplementary Guidance SG09’

The Responsible Authority is:

Falkirk 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:

.....
.....
.....

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 6

Contact name

Andrew McNair

Job Title

Planning Officer

Contact address

Development Services
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk Council
FK2 7YZ

Contact tel no

01324 504917

Contact email

Andrew.mcnair@falkirk.gov.uk

PART 7

Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable)



Date

5 December 2019

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	Falkirk Council
Title of PPS	Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Assessment – Supplementary Guidance SG09
Purpose of PPS	SG09 will provide updated guidance for developers, land managers and decision makers on the protection, enhancement and management of the rural landscapes of the Falkirk Council area. On adoption, SG09 will supersede and replace the 2015 guidance: Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Assessment – Supplementary Guidance SG09 .
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The guidance is required to supplement the policies and proposals of the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) , specifically Policy PE10 - Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Policy PE18 – Landscape.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Historic landscapes, landscape character and land-use planning
Period covered by PPS	July 2020 onwards, depending on the adoption date of the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan 2.
Frequency of updates	The guidance will be reviewed as and when necessary.
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	The guidance will cover the entire administrative area of Falkirk Council.
Summary of nature/content of PPS	The document provides supplementary guidance on three related issues: 1. A revision of the original 1999 Landscape Character Assessments covering the full rural area of Falkirk Council including guidance; 2. A description of the existing three Areas of Great Landscape Value with associated guidance specific to these landscape designations; and 3. National and Local Designed Landscapes. A summary of the national designed landscapes and an additional list of locally important designed landscapes with associated guidance.
Are there any proposed PPS objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Copy of objectives attached	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Date	5 December 2019

SEA SCREENING REPORT

Table 1 below summarises the findings of the screening exercise undertaken by Falkirk Council in determining the likelihood of significant environment effects from Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Assessment – Supplementary Guidance SG09.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

<p style="text-align: center;">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)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</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>No</p>	<p>SG09 will: update the landscape character assessments used as the basis for determining the impact of development on the landscape; and provide a detailed description of the three existing AGLVs within the Council area.</p> <p>The principles that the Council will seek to: protect and enhance landscape character and quality; safeguard the distinctive landscape quality of AGLV; and ensure existing cultural heritage features are identified, conserved, enhanced and integrated sensitively into development have already been established by policies PE10 and PE18 of LDP2 (which has itself been through a process of SEA).</p> <p>The principles that: there will be a presumption against development which would adversely affect the character or setting of sites identified on the “Inventory or Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland”; and the value of other historic gardens and designed landscapes will be given due weights in the planning process have already been established by Policy PE10 – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</p> <p>There are 43 historic gardens and designed landscapes across the Council area (see attached list). The most important of these (Dunmore Park, The Pineapple and Callendar Park) are already identified on the national inventory of historic gardens and designed landscapes. Listed elements of the locally important historic gardens and designed landscapes are already provided a</p>

<p>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)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
		level of protection under Policy PE07 – Listed Buildings of Falkirk LDP2.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	No	SG09 could influence masterplans and development briefs prepared by the Council. However, the guidance will supplement but sit under LDP2 which has been subject to SEA.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	Ensuring that development can proceed in a manner which maintains the value of existing environmental assets is a key premise of sustainable development. However, as described above principles of landscape and historic landscape protection have already been established through existing LDP2 policies and impacts on locally important designed landscapes are not considered to have any potential to be regarded as significant environmental effects.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	No	SG09 will ensure locally important designed landscapes are given a sufficient level of consideration in the determination of planning applications.
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)	No	The guidance has no direct relationship with the implementation of any EU legislation.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	Effect will occur whenever development is proposed in the vicinity of locally important designed landscapes. There are up to 40 of these across the Council area. However in terms of SEA, impacts on locally important designed landscapes are not considered to have any potential to be regarded as significant environmental effects.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	Cumulative impacts on locally important designed landscapes are not considered to have any potential to be regarded as significant environmental effects in terms of SEA. SG09 will supplement relevant policies in LDP2, which will help determine the acceptability of the principle of development in terms of individual and cumulative impacts on visual amenity and the wider landscape. The policies have already been subject to SEA.
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	SG09 will not have any significant transboundary environment effects. The guidance only concerns the Falkirk area.

<p>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)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No risks to human health or the environment are discernible under this guidance.</p>
<p>2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>SG09 will provide an extra level of protection for up to 40 locally important designed landscapes across the Council area (see attached list) Impacts on locally important designed landscapes are not considered to have any potential to be regarded as significant environmental effects in terms of SEA.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant effects identified. SG09 will supplement relevant policies in the Falkirk LDP2, whose potential effects have been considered acceptable as part of the SEA for that plan.</p>
<p>2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No such effects are discernible under this guidance. The acceptability of a development's landscape impacts will be determined by the application of relevant policies of the Falkirk LDP2. These policies have already been subject to SEA.</p>

SEA SCREENING REPORT

Below is a summary of Falkirk Council’s consideration of the significant environment effects of ‘Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Assessment – Supplementary Guidance SG09’.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

SG09 will: review the landscape character assessments used as the basis for determining the impact of development on the landscape; and provide a detailed description of the three existing AGLV within the Council area.

The principles that the Council will seek to: protect and enhance landscape character and quality; safeguard the distinctive landscape quality of AGLV; and ensure existing cultural heritage features are identified, conserved, enhanced and integrated sensitively into development have already been established by policies PE10 and PE18 of LDP2 (which has itself been through a process of SEA).

The principles that: there will be a presumption against development which would adversely affect the character or setting of sites identified on the “Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland”; and the value of other historic gardens and designed landscapes will be given due weights in the planning process have already been established by Policy PE10 – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Against all the criteria listed within the Table 1, it was determined that the guidance will have no significant environmental effects. Falkirk Council therefore believes SG09 is a qualifying plan or programme which does not require a SEA.