

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

## Notice of the Determination that the proposed East Dunbartonshire Council Sports Pitches Strategy will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment

### Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

As required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council has reviewed the likely significance of the environmental effects of the proposed Sports Pitches Strategy.

East Dunbartonshire Council has made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Sports Pitches Strategy is not likely to result in significant environmental effects and will therefore not progress to the scoping stage or be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

#### Neil Samson

#### Environmental Planner

Land Planning and Development  
Development and Regeneration  
Southbank House  
Strathkelvin Place  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 1TF

#### Relevant Documents:

- SEA Screening Determination Notification to Consultation Authorities on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Screening Report submitted to Consultation Authorities on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- Responses from the Consultation Authorities:
  - Response from Historic Scotland
  - Response from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
  - Response from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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

**DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION**

**Land Planning and Development**

Southbank House  
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G66 1XU

Telephone 0141 578 8600

Fax No: 0141 578 8575

SEA Gateway,

**SEA Screening Determination  
East Dunbartonshire Council Sports Pitches Strategy 2024**

I refer to your email dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the screening report that was submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in relation to the proposed East Dunbartonshire Council Sports Pitches Strategy.

After reviewing the responses, the Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Sports Pitches Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Sports Pitches Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and will therefore not progress to the scoping stage or be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

A copy of the screening determination will be available for inspection during normal office hours at Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1TF and on the Council website at [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk). An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald to publicise the screening determination.

In accordance with Section 10(1) of the Act, a copy of the screening determination is enclosed and I would be obliged if you could forward this onto the Consultation Authorities.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Neil Samson, Environmental Planner on 0141 578 8615.

Yours faithfully,

**Neil Samson**  
**Environmental Planner**

# SCREENING REPORT

## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

East Dunbartonshire Council

**Title of the plan:**

Sports Pitches Strategy 2024

**What prompted the plan:**

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

Expiry of the existing Strategy.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Land Use: Natural grass and synthetic sports pitch

**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:**

Neil Samson

**Tel:** 0141 578 8615

**Email:** [Neil.samson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.samson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Directorate  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
Southbank House  
Strathkelvin Place  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 1XQ

**Date:**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture and East Dunbartonshire Council are developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the area in order to provide a robust and objective assessment of provision. The process involves carrying out a comprehensive assessment of supply and demand issues in respect of outdoor field sports pitch site provision for football, rugby and hockey, including synthetic turf pitches. It includes all facilities whether managed within the public, private, voluntary or education sectors.

The Strategy will be influenced by the Scottish Governing Bodies in Football, Rugby and Field Hockey in terms of proposals for how these sports are delivered across junior and adult age ranges.

### Description of the Plan:

The Strategy will identify the local need for pitch provision within East Dunbartonshire and will serve as the key evidence base to inform future strategic planning and priorities in sport and recreation facilities across the area and make recommendations for improving provision. The Strategy will look to examine:

- The current supply of all outdoor sports pitch provision
- The identified provisions capacity and current use
- Current and future demand identified from clubs and population growth.
- Demand pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures (e.g. growth of mini soccer, wider use of artificial grass pitches).
- Identify any inequalities in supply and demand across the area.
- Highlight priority sites in terms of development and improvement opportunities.

The study area of the Strategy encompasses the whole of East Dunbartonshire. Assessment of provision and examination of spare capacity and overplay is undertaken for the whole of the area and where applicable at a local level. The areas and settlements recognised within the assessment report will be:

- Bearsden
- Bishopbriggs
- Kirkintilloch/ Lenzie
- Lennoxton
- Milngavie
- Milton of Campsie
- Torrance
- Twechar

### What are the key components of the plan?

The Strategy intends to provide a picture of current and future sporting needs and demand which will assist in establishing pitch provision priorities. It will particularly help to identify areas of sports provision in need of protection and improvement in order to meet the current and future demand for outdoor pitch sports.

Proposed Objectives:

- Improved asset management to ensure better quality pitch and changing accommodation provision;
- Effective and efficient management for the delivery of better managed pitch sites of outdoor sports facilities and use of resources;

- To integrate development planning for current and future pitch provision. This will identify any need for developer obligations where developments would create a direct need for particular facilities or place additional requirements on existing facilities;
- To ensure a more robust coordinated investment planning for pitch provision through partnership working, where appropriate,
- To determine the prioritisation of capital and revenue investment and the ability to secure external funding;
- To support sports development and encourage an active lifestyle through pitch sports;
- To improve and enhance current pitch provision;
- To promote community involvement and ownership in pitch site developments.

**Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?**

The intended outcomes of the proposed Strategy will inform the Open Space Strategy and Greenspace Strategy through the provision of data regarding sports pitches. Both of these Strategies have been/will be subject to SEA.

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

Aim of the Strategy and proposed objectives set out above.

**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		
<p><b>Strategy Aim and Objectives</b></p> <p>The Strategy intends to provide a picture of current and future sporting needs and demand which will assist in establishing pitch provision priorities. It will particularly help to identify areas of sports provision in need of protection and improvement in order to meet the current and future demand for outdoor pitch sports.</p> <p>Proposed Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved asset management to ensure better quality pitch and changing accommodation provision;</li> <li>• Effective and efficient management for the delivery of better managed pitch sites of outdoor sports facilities and use of resources;</li> <li>• To integrate development planning for current and future pitch provision. This will identify any need for developer obligations where developments would create a direct need for particular facilities or place</li> </ul>	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>The proposed Strategy in itself is likely to provide minor benefits to the environment in relation to <b>population and human health</b> through improvements to sports pitch provision and associated facilities. This has the potential to encourage sports and recreation benefiting health and wellbeing. The effects directly from this strategy are unlikely to be significant or present any risks to the environment.</p>	





#### 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 Strategy will recognise the importance of sports pitches and their provision for open space (natural grass pitches) and recreation (both natural grass and 3G pitch facilities) in East Dunbartonshire, particularly in more urban areas. However, the scope of the Strategy does not extend to identifying particular new sites or options and the effects regarding health and wellbeing are likely to be minimal and localised in nature.

Whilst it is anticipated that the Strategy will have a positive impact, to an extent, the overall environmental impacts of the Strategy itself are unlikely to be significant. Therefore, it has been determined that, under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a full SEA is not required.

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

By email to: [sea\\_gateway@gov.scot](mailto:sea_gateway@gov.scot)

Neil Samson  
Sustainability Policy Team  
East Dunbartonshire Council  
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets  
Southbank House  
Strathkelvin Place  
Kirkintilloch  
G66 1XQ

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300073128  
Your ref: 01890  
29 May 2024

Dear Neil Samson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**  
**01890 - East Dunbartonshire - Sports Pitches Strategy 2024**

### Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 09 May 2024 about the above screening report. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

### Historic Environment Scotland's view

In light of the information and reasoning set out within the screening report, we agree with your view that there are **unlikely to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment**.

### Next steps

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine whether an environmental assessment is required. You must then notify the Consultation Authorities within 28 days of making this determination. This may be done via the SEA Gateway ([sea\\_gateway@gov.scot](mailto:sea_gateway@gov.scot)).

We hope our advice is helpful to you in making this determination. Please feel welcome to contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Cailee Mellen who can be contacted by phone on 0131 651 6807 or by email on [cailee.mellen@hes.scot](mailto:cailee.mellen@hes.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. SC045925

VAT No. GB 221 8680 15

Dear Neil Samson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
SEA01890  
Sports Pitches Strategy 2024  
East Dunbartonshire Council

Thank you for consulting SEPA on this Screening Report by way of your email of 09 May 2024.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) **we agree with the conclusions of the screening report** that the proposed PPS is **unlikely to have significant environmental effects**.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If you would like to discuss this consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or via our SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

I trust these comments are of assistance - please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,  
Silvia Cagnoni  
Senior Planning Officer



For the future of our environment

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu [postmaster@sepa.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@sepa.org.uk). Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lanraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoleadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlièidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.



**NatureScot**  
**NàdarAlba**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Neil Samson  
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G66 1XQ

Our Ref: CEA175421

Date: 20 May 2024

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Sports Pitches Strategy 2024  
Screening Determination**

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 09 May 2024 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

NatureScot has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. In terms of our interests, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact Jimmy Hyslop on [jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot](mailto:jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot) or via NatureScot's SEA Gateway at [sea\\_gateway@nature.scot](mailto:sea_gateway@nature.scot).

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Kinnes  
Operations Manager – West Central Scotland

